Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 300 | FRIDAY DECEMBER 28, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER
This week's poll:

With the recent tragedy in Connecticut, should the U.S. implement stricter gun control laws?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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BUSINESS



Toyota has reached a settlement in a case involving unintended acceleration problems in its vehicles.

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ASIA



Shinzo Abe vowed to overcome the deep-rooted economic and diplomatic crises facing his country.

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LIFE & STYLE



Peter Parker is out of the hero game.

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Visitor arrivals to CNMI up 12 percent. PAGE 3

'Burglary, robbery, theft cases reach epidemic proportions'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As an increase in burglary, arson, robbery, and theft cases on the islands has reached epidemic proportions, Department of Public Safety acting commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro has reactivated the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition to go after those criminals.

» Ogumoro reactivates special group TASC



Ogumoro

Ogumoro in a press statement yesterday said from Jan. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2012, a total of 1,108 incidents of burglary, robbery, and theft, plus 12 arson cases have been reported to the police.

Ogumoro said he and the staff un-

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Developer unveils plans to construct resort hotel in CK

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A new resort hotel is set to rise at the site of the former Pacific Gardenia in Chalan Kanoa to address the growing demand on Saipan's tourism industry and as part of the developer's wider effort to revitalize what was once the bustling capital of the island.

» Community members for and against project attend public hearing

Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club will stretch over five parcels of land measuring 5,456 square meters and with a floor area of 42,478 square feet and fronting one of the most beautiful beaches on Saipan. The property will feature 60 hotel rooms, the main restaurant, a Korean BBQ restaurant, Japanese noodle house, beach club, modern health spa, and space rentals for shops.

Executives of Saipan Surfrider, LLC, the project developer, unveiled for the first time details about the venture during yesterday's public hearing on the company's application for a qualifying certificate with the Commonwealth Development Authority held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

About 20 individuals representing the company and its supporters, CDA staff, and other community members attended the event, one of the many

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Michael S. Sablan of Saipan Surfrider, LLC, right, shows acting director Oscar Camacho of the Commonwealth Development Authority the project plan for the $12.1-million Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club during a public hearing yesterday for its application in the qualifying certificate program at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Maratita urges court to issue contempt order against Fitial, SDLLC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and co-plaintiffs in the ongoing case in Superior Court involving the alleged illegal $190.8-million, 25-year power purchase agreement asked the court to issue a contempt order against defendants Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delaware-based Saipan Development, LLC for violating

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Local



MAN'AMKO VISIT CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students and staff of Mount Carmel School pose for a group photo following their holiday program for the *man'amko* at the Aging Center last Thursday.



ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND SATURDAY

Tottotville homeowners get $4.25M settlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Forty-four Tottotville Subdivision homeowners received on Monday, Christmas Eve, and on Saturday, checks and cash out of the $4.25 million settlement coming from project construction manager SSFM International Inc. in connection with the homeowners' six-year-old lawsuit.

This developed as Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos on Friday issued an order awarding a total of $984,921.89 in costs and attorneys' fees to the Jessica Castro Group of 34 homeowners to be paid jointly and severally by SSFM International Inc. and the project's general contractor, Telesource CNMI Inc.

» Judge Inos awards $989,921 in costs and attorneys fees to 3 lawyers representing 34 homeowners

Attorneys Edward C. Arriola, Matthew T. Gregory, and William R. Satterberg are counsels for the 34 Castro Group of homeowners.

Inos awarded Arriola $259,396.27 in costs and $375,000 in attorney's fees; awarded Gregory $8,347 in costs and $175,000 in attorney's fees; and awarded Satterberg $49,053.62 in costs and $118,125 in attorney's fees.

Inos conducted a hearing on the issue of costs and attorneys' fees on Dec. 6, 2012.

Saipan Tribune learned from sources that the lawyers representing the 44 homeowners distributed the settlement checks and cash on Saturday and on Monday.

Attorney Joaquin DLG. Torres, counsel for the other group of homeowners—Joseph Flores Group of 10 homeowners, confirmed yesterday that payments were made to their clients.

Arriola, one of the counsels for the 34 Castro Group of homeowners, was not available for comment.

Gregory, another counsel for Castro Group, said he is not able to comment absent a waiver from his clients.

"I am bound by attorney-client privilege on these matters," Gregory told *Saipan Tribune*.

At a phone interview, atty. Torres said they released on Saturday cash to their 10 clients and checks for the remaining balance on Monday.

Torres said the Superior Court's binding and unappealable judgment awarded to the homeowners and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. was $4.99 million, but it ended up with $4.25 million settlement.

"So NMHC got the share for attorney's fees and their damages. The Flores homeowners got their share in attorney's fees and the Castro homeowners got their share," Torres said.

Torres said his clients settled with Telesource almost two years ago.

"My clients got everything now," the lawyer pointed out.

On attorney's fees issue, Torres said when their clients were granted by the court attorney's fees a month ago, they put the award together with the judgment for the 10 homeowners.

Torres said their attorney's fees and costs were about $425,000, but they did not claim the entire amount and instead put it together with the judgment.

Torres said he does not want to disclose the amount of costs and attorney's fees they received, but that in essence their clients got more.

The Castro Group and NMHC still have their claims against Telesource and the latter's performance bond insurer, Telebond Insurance Corp.

One of the Castro homeowners told *Saipan Tribune* that attorneys Arriola and Gregory handed the 34 checks to the 34 Castro homeowners at Arriola's law office on Monday.

The homeowner said they got only 50 percent of the settlement amount and do not know when are they going to get the other 50 percent.

Asked if they are happy with the release of the checks, the homeowner replied, "Not good. So small. The lawyers get more."

The homeowners filed the lawsuit in 2006 against NMHC, SSFM, Telesource, and Telebond for allegedly defrauding them in the construction of defective homes in Koblerville.

Associate Judge Inos entered an original arbitration award and judgment on July 23, 2012 and an amended arbitration award and judgment on July 24, 2012.

SSFM, Telesource, and Telebond Insurance then filed motions to amend the award and judgment.

On Nov. 21, 2012, Inos amended the arbitration award and judgment as to Telebond Insurance's liability to the Castro homeowners.

Inos upheld the damage amount as awarded in the arbitration award and judgment, but amended Telebond Insurance's

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Visitor arrivals to CNMI up 12 percent

November 2012 visitor arrivals to the CNMI were up 12 percent compared to November 2011. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 32,894 visitors in November compared to 29,275 in November 2011.

Arrivals from Japan reached 10,082 visitors in November, 6 percent higher than November last year, as the Japan market continues to stabilize. Asiana Airlines launched a charter flight with 250 seats from Osaka to Saipan on Nov. 22 for the long Japanese weekend, and continued territorial tensions between Japan and both Korea and China drove an increasing number of short-haul Japanese vacationers to other short-haul destinations such as the Northern Marianas.

Arrivals from Korea rose 4 percent to 11,833 visitors. The supply of air seats to the CNMI out of the Korea market is projected to continue to increase in the final quarter of the year, with Asiana Airlines boosting its Busan-Saipan service from two to four flights a week beginning Nov. 20 and ensuring continued strong growth in Korean arrivals through the end of the year. Asiana Airlines will also operate charter flights with 290 seats using an Airbus 330 for the winter season starting Jan. 10 until March 28, 2013; this will bring an additional 6,670 air seats out of the Korea market to the Northern Marianas.

Arrivals from China continued a consistent double-digit increase, jumping another 38 percent in November to 8,214 visitors. In addition to six weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou, three new weekly direct non-stop flights from Beijing to Saipan launched Nov. 15, which will ensure continued extraordinary growth out of the China market for the coming year.

With the launch of bi-weekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok to Saipan in late October, arrivals from Russia nearly doubled in November, jumping 194 percent to 700.

Japan, Korea and China Economic Highlights

The Japanese Cabinet Office's monthly economic report indicated slowing growth, as exports and industrial production declined, and the recovery in corporate profits and the employment situation slowed. The value of the yen continued to fall in November, thanks to lower exports and expectations of stimulus by the Bank of Japan. Versus the U.S. dollar, the Japanese currency went from 79.72 at the beginning of the month and closed at 82.1 yen to the dollar, making travel to the Northern Marianas more expensive for Japanese travelers. Travel agency JTB conducted an online survey of overseas travelers who live in Japan's major metropolitan areas (Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya), and 31.3 percent of respondents answered that their travel choices were motivated by favorable exchange rates.

The Korean economy showed growing exports and a slight improvement in consumption, but continued weakness in investment. In its financial stability report, the Bank of Korea believes the country's financial system is stabilizing despite worsening domestic and external conditions, including the prolonged Eurozone financial crisis, the economic slowdown at home and abroad, and mounting household debt. The won/dollar exchange rate declined 8.95 from previous month to finish at 1,082.95, due to external uncertainties including the looming U.S. fiscal cliff. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the total number of Korean outbound travelers from January to October was 11,449,456, up 7 percent from the same period in 2011.

China Business News reported that the first economic work conference of China's new leadership will set a 2013 growth target of 7.5 percent, the same target as this year. The Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, appreciated 18 basis points to 6.2908 against the U.S. dollar on Nov. 21, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served regularly from Shanghai and Guangzhou and seasonally from Beijing. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Bordallo: Navy not dealing in good faith

»Calls for investigation into Navy process in shipyard lease

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo said the U.S. Navy is not dealing in good faith in negotiations between the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific (NAVFAC Pacific) and the Guam Shipyard on a long-term lease for a ship repair facility on Guam.

"The U.S. Navy, NAVFAC Pacific in particular, has not been negotiating in good faith with the Guam Shipyard," she said. "Recent negotiations have been terminated prematurely and I have urged senior Navy leadership to re-engage in these lease negotiations."

Bordallo added that the U.S. Navy is insisting on significant necessary capital improvements at the shipyard. However, she said any good businessman understands that there needs to be a way to fund those improvements.

"NAVFAC Pacific had insisted that they would facilitate conversations between Navy's Pacific Fleet and Military Sealift Command but that has yet to occur. The operational Navy is the ultimate end-user of the ship repair capability and their input is critical to the lease agreement," she added.

Bordallo said the current strategy by the Navy is wrong and needlessly risks jobs on Guam.

"We must have a long-term ship repair capability; the current strategy proposed by the Navy is not cost effective and would undermine existing capabilities. It's time for the negotiations to recommence." ***(PR)***















DEVELOPER

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requirements in submitting Saipan Surfrider's QC application which requests for abatement on the developer tax, as well as business gross revenue, excise, and bar taxes for 25 years.

Saipan Surfrider LLC manager Bob Jones said the resort hotel, which can be expanded up to 100 units, would be modeled after the premier line of Best Western, the world's largest hotel chain with over 4,000 rooms across the globe.

To achieve this, Jones said they are working with a retired architect from Best Western and is now in private business, teaching them on the intricacies that would make Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club achieve the upscale status of renowned hotel brand.

"We like the system that they have, and we also like the idea that they have a lot of hotels around the world that can forward reservations once we get into the system. Hopefully, that would help us," added Jones, whose company runs other businesses and developed properties on island.

He revealed that the interest to build and manage the new resort and hotel arose with the opportunity provided by the EB-5 visa program administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which invites foreign national investors to put in at least $500,000 worth of investment to allow them to get a green card or permanent resident status within two years.

"As new investors join the project, our shares will dilute but we will keep 51 percent of shares to retain management control," according to Jones. He said that the program would help lure to the Northern Marianas potential investors from China, Korea, and Japan, having received inquiries from several interested entrepreneurs.

Jones added that the soon-to-rise resort hotel would also help revitalize Chalan Kanoa, where other establishments like Sandy Beach Homes are located, in hopes of restoring the village's glory days when it hosted the hub for politics and trade.

"With the economy being what it is, we come to CDA to look for some help," he said at the public hearing.

Saipan Surfrider's Michael Sablan said the $12.1-million proposed development is targeted to commence by January 2013 and will involve three phases spanning less than three years: Phase 1 will involve the construction of 22 rooms and two restaurants by end of next year; Phase 2 with 26 rooms and two restaurants by December 2014; and the Final Phase for 12 additional rooms to be completed by June 2015.

He said the project would spur economic growth in the islands, creating job and business opportunities, direct participation in the growth of the Commonwealth as a tourist destination, positive cash flow, and offering new dining options and other amenities for both vacationers and residents.

Although the project has multiple components to it, including the permitting and financing process and QC application, Sablan said the Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club will also be a "fast-track" project similar to Sandy Beach Homes, the first affordable housing development on island which completed construction in a year, with all units filled up the following year.

"The QC approval is one critical part that makes sure this project moves forward as we would like it to in these very difficult and uncertain times," he said.

Sablan emphasized that their QC application seeks for tax relief that would make the project "viable." However, the relief would not include hotel occupancy and income taxes.

Pros and cons

Community members comprised of other hotel executives and civic leaders expressed their support for the QC application of the proposed Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club, saying that the project presents prospects of economic development needed in the CNMI.

Ivan Quichocho of Tan Holdings said the lack of rooms during the peak season for the islands' tourism industry results to "lost opportunities" that would have carried the Northern Marianas during its low period, given the rising cost of operating business on the islands.

"We need every opportunity to bring more tourists… We need those rooms, and we need them fast," said Quichocho, who also applauded Saipan Surfrider LLC executives for their project plan and described their QC application as "reasonable and needed" in our island economy.

For his part, incoming Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan regarded the proposed resort hotel as an "anchor project" in Chalan Kanoa needed on island to generate tax revenue and job opportunities, among others.

"Every reasonable country in the world offers incentives to businesses," said Sablan as he urged CDA to provide the project developer with the requested tax relief.

But one businessman, Dr. Gene Eagle Oden, said that while he is in favor of any project that would stimulate the economy, he is not in favor of approving the QC application.

According to Oden, the CNMI has the lowest tax rates and income per capita that it should not grant Saipan Surfrider, LLC relief from taxes that would fund healthcare and other public services on the islands.

"Yes, I'm in favor of the project, but let's not go for tax relief," adding that the proposed development will move forward without any tax breaks.

Jones, however, argued that should the QC application be denied, the project will be scaled down considerably, especially since project costs are already adding up. He noted that this would be his first time to apply for a QC.

Developers are expected to make another presentation, this time with the CDA board on Jan. 16, 2013, with the board convening after two weeks before it transmits its recommendation to the governor by Feb. 6, according to Carline Sablan, CDA economic development analyst.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that among the factors to be considered in deciding on the QC application include impact on the economy and tourism industry, benefits to the CNMI, job creation, and linkages to other local businesses.

She disclosed that Saipan Surfrider LLC paid for the $10,000 filing fee on Dec. 13. Should their application get a green light, the company will be the seventh active beneficiary under the QC program.

The last application approved was for Sandy Beach Homes LLC, which was issued by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in December 2010.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Surfrider, LLC manager Robert "Bob" Jones yesterday announced for the first time details about the proposed Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club, which is set to be constructed at the former Pacific Gardenia in Chalan Kanoa, during a public hearing on the company's qualifying certificate application with the Commonwealth Development Authority. The $12.1-million soon-to-rise resort and hotel will feature 60 rooms, four restaurants including a beach club, a modern health spa, and space for shops.

MARATITA

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the preliminary injunctions issued in the case.

Preliminary injunction is a court order made in the early stages of a lawsuit or petition which prohibits the parties from doing an act which is in dispute, thereby maintaining the status quo until there is a final judgment after the trial.

According to plaintiffs' counsel Atty. Ramon K. Quichocho, the court should find that there is no First Amendment right violated by the issuance of the court's injunction orders and that Fitial and SDLLC are merely suffering from "contemnor's remorse," which is defined as a person found to have committed contempt of court.

The court issued on Aug. 31, 2012 a preliminary injunction ordering that all defendants are restrained and prohibited from pursuing the $190.8-million power purchase agreement. A supplemental preliminary injunction was later issued on Sept. 5, 2012 ordering the same status.

Quichocho, based on his filing dated Dec. 26 at the Superior Court, said that it was on Dec. 3—two weeks after the injunction order from court—when SDLLC officials arrived on Saipan and met with the governor to discuss the PPA and other projects. The meeting was extended to some lawmakers including Sen. Juan Ayuyu (R-Rota), regarding the same issue.

It was on Dec. 3 when Quichocho's clients filed a motion for an order to show cause against the defendants, which was later granted by the court. Fitial then filed an objection to entry of order to show cause on Dec. 6. The court denied this objection.

"Contrary to defendant Fitial's argument in his opposition to order of show cause, the preliminary injunction and supplemental preliminary injunction orders in this case are clear and unambiguous," stated the court document, adding that this intends to prohibit the defendants from continuing, pursuing, or performing on the Aug. 3 PPA.

THEFT

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derstand the public's concern over the large volume of unsolved burglary, robbery, and arson cases in the CNMI.

Recently, the acting commissioner said he assigned additional detectives to combat these crimes by beefing up the Criminal Investigation Bureau with TASC operatives.

TASC was created in 2002 as a special group that focused on solving burglary, theft, and robbery cases. It was credited for 107 arrests between July 28 and Dec. 31, 2002. Of those arrests, 104 resulted in convictions.

Ogumoro said yesterday that with the assistance from patrol, fire arson investigators, and the NMI Crime Stoppers program, TASC operatives recently made several arrests.

The acting commissioner cited the arrest of Benjamin Lee Rios, a 42-year-old man who was apprehended last Dec. 13 for burglarizing a residence in Garapan and another house in Gualo Rai.

He said the TASC agents also prepared a warrant of arrest that resulted in the arrest of 20-year-old Ronald Leon Guerrero Ealey last Dec. 19 for robbing and assaulting a Chinese businesswoman near Capitol Bowling Center in Garapan.

Ogumoro said that, also on Dec. 19, 41-year-old Brian Lee Reyes was arrested for burglarizing a residence in Chalan Kiya and stealing a home stereo worth $2,650.

Ogumoro said that, on Dec. 21, 43-year-old Ana Ching was arrested for allegedly stealing an Ipod valued at over $250.

He said that, on Dec. 22, Jack Petrus, 28, was arrested for breaking into the Islander Rent-A-Car and stealing $840 worth of items.

Ogumoro said TASC operatives followed up a Crime Stoppers' tip that resulted in the arrest of Petrus.

The acting commissioner asked the public for their patience and understanding in the overwhelming amount of unsolved crimes in the CNMI.

"This must be a collective effort of all relevant stakeholders to include the CNMI legislature, media, private businesses, and the general public," Ogumoro said.

HOMEOWNERS

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liability as it applies to the Castro homeowners.

The judge ordered that Telebond Insurance is held jointly and severally liable for damages specifically accruing from the defective construction of the homes belonging to the Castro homeowners in the amount of $1,889,738 and for indemnifying NMHC in the amount of $694,850.73.

Inos said all other awards issued remain in full force and effect.

The lawyers representing the plaintiffs issued a press release shortly after Inos issued the binding and unappealable judgment in July 2012. The lawyers said the judgment awarded NMHC $694,850.73 and the Castro Group of 34 homeowners $3.78 million in damages against defendants SSFM, Telesource, and Telebond.

The lawyers said Inos also awarded the Flores Group of 10 homeowners (who had earlier settled some of their claims) $513,704 in damages against SSFM.

The law offices of O'Connor is representing Telesource and Telebond.

In January 2011, it was reported that NMHC settled with 35 of the 45 homeowners.

'Arctic Circle Air closed $3M Loan'

In response to recent newspaper articles wherein Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. has reported that they have turned down Independence Bank's $3-million, SBA-guaranteed loan, the bank responds that Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. already closed on the loan.

"Mr. Pellegrino has known the terms and conditions of the loan for over 12 months. They have never changed. He was represented by his legal counsel and he closed the loan—he signed the commitment letter, the loan agreement, everything. There were no surprises. Apparently Mr. Pellegrino changed his mind after the fact, now that Arctic secured the U.S. Mail delivery contract. We wish Arctic well, but there is no need for Mr. Pellegrino to portray the loan negatively; he has known the deal for months," stated Michael Sammartino, director of business development at Independence Bank.

"Mr. Pellegrino likes to portray himself as a stellar businessman. However, he clearly thinks that written contracts do not apply to him. He is severely mistaken; Arctic now owes Independence Bank a tremendous amount of fees (all fully disclosed and agreed upon long ago), and we will collect them. Mr. Pellegrino needs to notify all Arctic investors and potential investors of the money Arctic owes Independence Bank," said Sammartino.

He said what is really unfortunate is that the Commonwealth Development Authority committed to invest $600,000 in Arctic based on the condition that Arctic close and fund Independence Bank's loan

"Our loan was to provide for an additional airplane, and much-needed working capital to help this start-up airline survive; this is a capital-intense business; you can't do it on a shoestring budget. Now we fear that Arctic is going to try to push the CDA to invest even more; this would be a big mistake, as Arctic is showing that they do not intend to abide by any agreement. Let Mr. Pellegrino and Mr. Zak self-finance the balance needed if this is such a wonderful project; apparently they have the resources as they turned down our money—they have a loan with us, why should anyone else give them funds?" said Sammartino.


Sammartino

The bank official also noted that since the loan was not funded, CDA is now the majority shareholder in Arctic.

"The CDA shares did not convert to preferred equity, which would have happened upon loan funding—as agreed to by Arctic and CDA. CDA can now call the shots—and they have several options that now avail themselves," said Sammartino.

He said what really disappoints him is that Pellegrino publicly sought to make the loan out to be something horrible.

"… It is not—it is everything we promised Arctic and the CDA; a well-structured loan. For Mr. Pellegrino to state that the loan would not allow the company to make such decisions as increasing the salaries of employees is completely false; Mr. Pellegrino is fully aware that the loan documents state that as long as the company is meeting is loan covenants (i.e. making a profit), they can provide raises. In fact, even if it's not profitable, all they have to do is ask; no request would be unreasonably withheld. We call this prudent lending. The real issue that concerned Mr. Pellegrino was the language that states Arctic can't pay Mr. Pellegrino his investment back to himself until the loan is paid. This is normal in lending, and he knows better," said Sammartino.

"I told Mr. Pellegrino that I will hold the loan for him; as I think he is making a big mistake, and risking the CNMI's people's investment (The $600K CDA investment). He and Mr. Zak are very optimistic, and that is great; I hope they are right that they do not need more funds to make this project work. However I'm a realist; I know how hard this project will be; the burn rate is incredible. I believe that Arctic will exert tremendous pressure on the CDA or MPLT (Marianas Public Land Trust) to try to do more for them, and it's not necessary; Arctic already closed on my loan. And what did I get after my cordial conversation with Mr. Pellegrino? An article in the paper insulting Independence Bank and our 20 months of work with Arctic," stated Sammartino.

Added Sammartino, "I am miffed that a seasoned businessman like Mr. Pellegrino would seek to notify the press regarding a private business loan, and fabricate the reasons why he has chosen not to go forward. Nonetheless, I harbor no ill will and hold the loan ready for Arctic. It is unfortunate that I have had to respond to Mr. Pellegrino's interview." ***(PR)***

Tourist drowns on Rota

A Japanese male tourist drowned in Alaguan Bay on Rota last week.

Police Officer Jason Tarkong confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* on Wednesday that a tourist indeed drowned on Rota, but that he has not seen the police report yet.

Rota Senator-elect Victor Hocog in a phone interview disclosed that the incident happened in the afternoon last week, Dec. 19, in the back of the island called Alaguan Bay.

Hocog said based on his information, the Japanese tourist was swimming with some companions when he drowned.

"It's a reef area. I don't know what they're doing there. Maybe they went down hiking and decided to swim," he said.

Hocog said the victim's body was recovered and was sent to Saipan for disposition to Japan.

He said he learned that the victim operated a sailboat from Guam to Rota.

Hocog said from Rota, the victim and his wife were supposed to fly back to Japan.

Hocog said the boat is still in the Marina area. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***





‘Govt didn’t violate court orders by restoring Fund board’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas is urging the federal court to deny the motion filed by the Fund trustee ad litem Joseph Razzano seeking a contempt order against the government for alleged willful violations of court orders.

San Nicolas is the counsel for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, and the CNMI government in the ongoing case in federal court involving the retirement fund.

The Fund had earlier asked the district court to issue an order of show cause against the government because it claimed that it acted contrary to and in defiance of the court orders that granted Razzano sole and exclusive powers over the Fund when the governor nominated new trustees to the board.


San Nicolas

According to San Nicolas, the trustee ad litem failed to identify any such clear and definite order requiring that the Commonwealth refrain from nominating and considering trustees to sit on the Fund board. He said Razzano’s allegations rest on the erroneous assumption that he has a right to represent the presently incapacitated board for the duration of the case even if it regains capacity.

The Fund filed a bankruptcy case in April this year and during this period, the Fund board lost its quorum. But prior to the bankruptcy filing, the AG disclosed that the governor re-nominated Sixto Igisomar and Adelina Roberto, but which the Senate rejected Igisomar’s confirmation. Two more re-appointees were named to the Fund board in April—Bernardita Palacios and Marian Tudela— neither of whom were confirmed before the 90-day period expired. Last November, two nominees were named again namely Martin San Nicolas and Jose Limes, who replaced Alvaro Santos who declined the nomination.

“The Commonwealth’s efforts to restore a quorum on the board have not interfered with the TAL’s (trustee ad litem) temporary authority,” said San Nicolas, adding that the government will file a proper motion to remove the ad litem once a quorum was restored.

San Nicolas revealed that the court appointed Razzano to allow the case to proceed despite the lack of board quorum. This authority rested solely upon the fact that the board was incapacitated.

The Fund, in a recent motion filed in court, also asked the court to penalize the government. But the AG said “to establish liability for civil and criminal contempt, there must be a violation of a clear and definitive court order.” The allegations therefore, do not meet either of the contempt standards.

“The TAL’s arguments rests on his assumption that he has a right to represent the board in perpetuity, but he has no such right,” stated the court document, adding that contrary to TAL’s assertions the court did not prohibit the governor from appointing trustees to the board rather the court indicated that it would consider the governor’s continued authority to appoint trustees and the effect of such appointments after further briefings on the issue.

The Fund earlier said that the governor’s submission of the nominees to the Legislature has provoked further work and aggravation in the Fund for the TAL, the Fund employees, agents and staff, insofar as legislative requests for testimony, response to the public questions and request for information from the Fund distract and destabilize the operations of the Fund. It specifically cited court orders on Sept. 14 and Nov. 30 this year as the decisions violated by the government. Both orders pertain to the authority given by court to the ad litem.

The Fitial administration earlier admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that it wants to reorganize the Fund board of trustees to reduce or eliminate future expenses for the trustee ad litem.



Bellas recommended for Fund receiver post

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A former judge and longtime practicing lawyer based in the CNMI was recommended yesterday for appointment as permanent receiver for the NMI Retirement Fund.

Former judge Timothy H. Bellas’ possible appointment to the Fund receivership was proposed to the federal court yesterday by retirees Herminia M. Fusco and Stephen P. Lemieux. The two responded to the court’s earlier order asking for potential candidates for the permanent receiver post at the pension agency.


Bellas

Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood was asked to consider Bellas’ appointment to the position because the two retirees believe that the lawyer has a wide knowledge about local laws.

“Attorney Bellas has lived in the CNMI for over 30 years as a practicing private attorney, a former judge at the NMI Superior Court, and a former CNMI assistant attorney general who knows the CNMI laws and culture,” stated Fusco and Lemieux in their letter to the court filed yesterday.

In appointing Bellas, the retirees said legal cost would be minimized for the Fund as the lawyer lives on Saipan. As a private attorney, they said Bellas also handled numerous receiverships and bankruptcy cases.

According to the two, Bellas was also the choice of many retirees whom they consulted about the issue.

“We have spoken to several retirees and they support Atty. Bellas to be considered to the Fund receivership to protect our interest,” they said, adding that retirees would appreciate the court’s favorable action on the recommendation.

Tydingco-Gatewood earlier this month wanted all parties to submit to the court their recommendations on the possible appointment of a permanent receiver for the pension agency. This after the Fund asked the court to appoint trustee ad litem Joseph Razzano as permanent receiver for the pension agency. The judge set the hearing on this motion on Jan. 15, 2013.

In the interest of efficiency, the court ordered the parties to submit three names of qualified receivers and their curriculum vitae by Dec. 27 in the event the court decides to make such appointment. Parties were also advised that they have to make sure that their recommended individuals are willing to serve immediately and will accept and assume authority as receiver over the pension agency.

Receivership is a type of corporate bankruptcy in which a receiver is appointed by bankruptcy courts or creditors to run the company. The receiver may be appointed by a bankruptcy court, as a matter of private proceedings, or by a governing body. In most cases the receiver is given ultimate decision-making powers and has full discretion in deciding how the received assets will be managed.

NMC explains departure of employees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College admitted yesterday that the institution lost a total of 41 personnel in 2012, but it denied allegations that majority of these employees resigned due to leadership issues within the college.

It was last Friday when the Board of Regents was alerted by the college's former faculty senate president and longtime educator Larry Lee on the non-confidence of majority of institution's employees on the current leadership of Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D, who recently received a no confidence vote from faculty members. In the said meeting, Lee revealed that there are about 44 employees who opted to resign from their jobs due to concerns in the current leadership.

According to the NMC's Human Resources Office, the number of individuals who resigned from the college is actually less—significantly so—than what was reported to the regents.

"According to the college's HRO, there were 41 individuals who separated from the college in 2012. However, more than half of these individuals left the college because of retirement-related issues," read NMC's statement to *Saipan Tribune*.


Hart

It claimed that there were eight personnel who departed the college because their limited term appointment had expired, while 14 individuals separated to claim their retirement benefits this year.

The remaining employees who separated from the institution in 2012 resigned because they left the island, pursued career advancement opportunities, or left because of immigration-related issues.

Of these remaining employees who resigned, eight of them quit their posts for personal reasons not provided in their resignation letters.

"Nonetheless, despite the departure of some employees, NMC president Hart reassured students and the community that the quality of instruction remains consistently high at NMC and that student service offices continue to provide quality assistance," the college statement to *Saipan Tribune* indicated.

It added that the college HRO continues to work in recruiting highly qualified and experienced individuals to fill vacancies. NMC, according to its statement, has more than 150 employees comprised of staff and faculty members.

Hart submits reply

Meantime, the college confirmed that Hart had submitted on time yesterday her response to the "evidence report" turned in by faculty senate president Amanda Angel-Diaz last Monday.

Sources disclosed that both documents (from faculty leader and Hart) were still kept "sealed" by board chair Juan T. Lizama until today's continuation of the board meeting where the main agenda is the no confidence vote issued against Hart.

Saipan Tribune learned that the faculty had turned in volumes of materials and documents that serve as "evidence" on all the allegations it earlier raised against the president.

It can be recalled that 82 percent of faculty members who attended the Dec. 14 assembly passed a "vote of no confidence" in Hart's leadership because they alleged that the president had abused her power as CEO of the institution and mismanaged its finances just a little more than a year in office. Specifically identified under these allegations are the $200,000 that the president allegedly spent on travel, reimbursements she collected, approving sole-source contracts, and the amended human resource office procedures for off-island recruitment, among others.

Hart, it was earlier alleged, also attempted to eliminate the "shared governance" practice at the institution.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Incoming House Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero, left, takes a photo of members of the San Jose Church choir who performed several Christmas songs before Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation lawmakers last week.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Volunteers sought for Kagman after-school program

The Kagman Community Center wants to run an after-school program starting Jan. 7, 2013. It will open rooms for those who want to do homework, read books and study intensively. The center is inviting educators, students, and parents to join this movement. Certificates of volunteerism will be issued to the high school or college students who will help the kids. For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or kagmancommunity@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Change to Energy Star Rebate Program

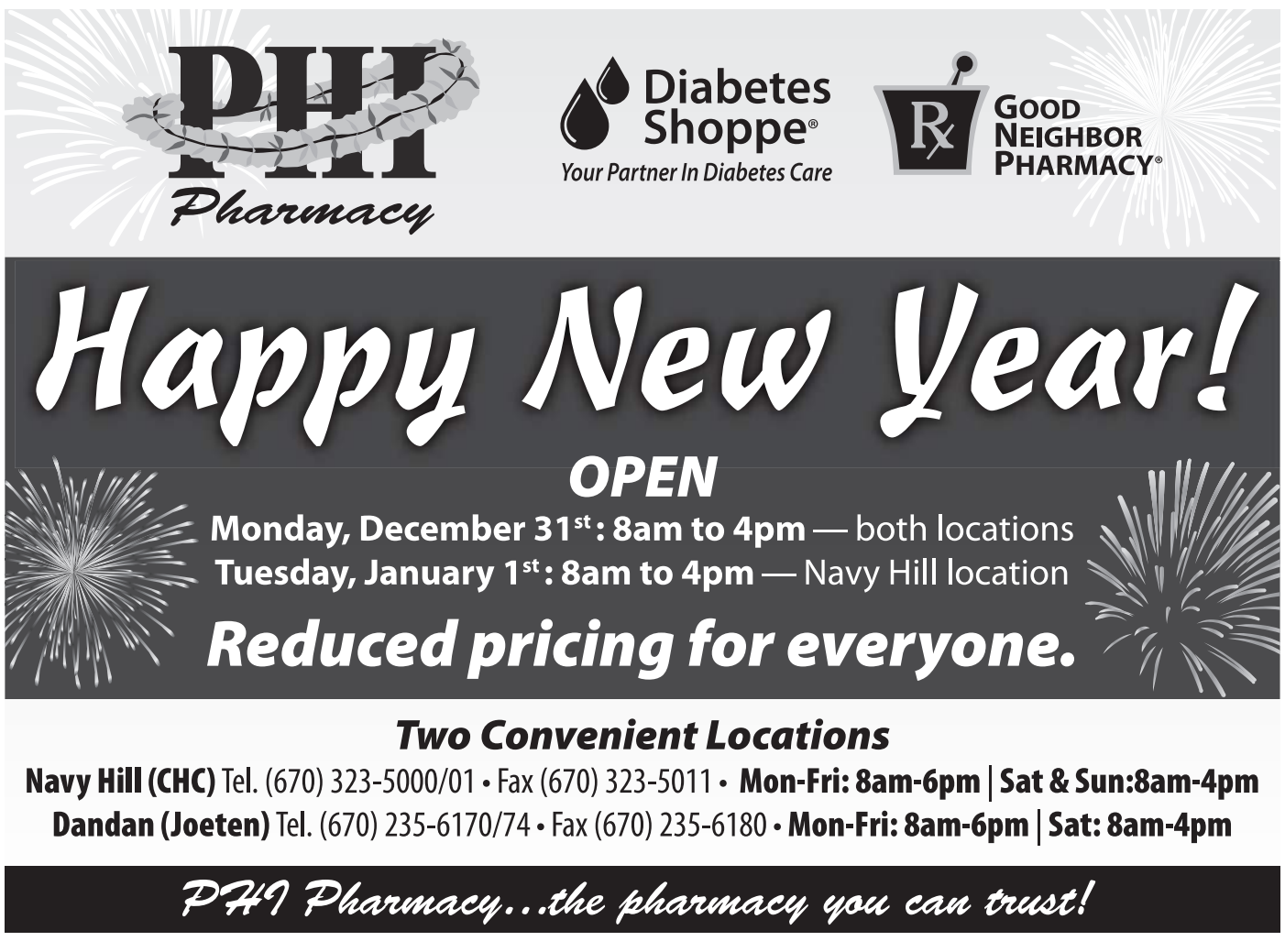
The CNMI Energy Division is informing all prospective recipients of the Energy Star Rebate Program that the redemption period for all appliance rebate vouchers will now be for 30 days from date of issuance, instead of 90 days, as indicated in the terms and conditions of the program.

All Residential Energy Star Rebate Vouchers must be redeemed within 30 days and not 90 days upon issuance of voucher. Extensions on vouchers will not be granted.

For more information, contact Shawn Pangelinan at CNMI Energy Division/ Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Office at 664-4487/4489/4490. ***(PR)***

Weatherization applications now available

The Weatherization Assistance Program for Low Income Families began its program effective Dec. 1, 2012. WAP applications are available at the Energy Division Office On Capital Hill, building #1337 or by accessing it via the Energy website at: www.cnmienergy.com under Weatherization Assistance Program applications. If you have any questions regarding the program, contact program manager Lorraine M. Seman or Eugene C. Borja, auditor, at 664-4481. ***(PR)***



Hawaii lieutenant gov picked to fill Senate seat

HONOLULU (AP)—Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz of Hawaii was appointed Wednesday to succeed the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie announced the appointment after receiving a list of three candidates from the state Democratic Party earlier in the day. The other candidates were U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa and Esther Kiaaina, a deputy director in the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Inouye died Dec. 17 of respiratory complications at the age of 88. He had sent Abercrombie a letter that day, saying he would like Hanabusa, 61, to succeed him.

"Sen. Inouye conveyed his final wish to Gov. Abercrombie. While we are very disappointed that it was not honored, it was the governor's decision to make," Jennifer Sabas, Inouye's chief of staff, said in a statement. "We wish Brian Schatz the best of luck."

The White House said Schatz was set to fly to Washington on Wednesday night aboard Air Force One, which was bringing President Barack Obama home early from his Christmas vacation as Congress considers what to do about the so-called fiscal cliff.



AP

Hawaii Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz speaks the state Capitol in Honolulu on Wednesday, Dec. 26. 2012 after Gov. Neil Abercrombie, right, announced he was appointing Schatz to fill the seat vacated by the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Schatz will serve until an election is held in 2014. Had Hanabusa been appointed, a special election would have been needed to fill her seat.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid had urged Abercrombie to name Inouye's successor before the end of the year. Schatz could be sworn in as early as this week, which would make him Hawaii's senior senator heading into the new Congress, which begins Jan. 3.

Sen. Daniel Akaka is retiring at the end of this Congress, after 22 years in the Senate. Democratic Rep. Mazie Hirono was elected in November to succeed him.

Schatz, 40, is a former state representative and a former chairman of the state Democratic Party. He also was a leader of Obama's campaign in Hawaii in 2008.

In making his case before the party's central committee Wednesday, he said he understood the importance of seniority in the Senate and said that if he was appointed, he would strive to make serving in the Senate his life's work.

Saipan Neighborhood Watch honors *Saipan Times*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Saipan Neighborhood Watch, Inc. yesterday recognized *Saipan Times* for its continued support in ensuring a safe and secure island community for everyone.

Ramon B. Camacho, chairman of the 11th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, presented the certificate of appreciation to Hong Kyun Kim, president of P&A Corp. which owns *Saipan Times*, in a brief ceremony yesterday morning at the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku in Chalan Kanoa.

Camacho said *Saipan Times* donated 21 Village Neighborhood Watch banners that read "Stop crime, join today," "We are watching you," and "Stay alert, report crime."

Kim, who is involved in agriculture and other businesses on island, said he is happy to help the Village Neighborhood Watch initiative, coming together with Camacho whom he described as "doing very well in the community."

"I want to make Saipan a safe and better place so we will continue to donate in this very good project," vowed Kim.

Besides donating the banners, Kim's P&A Corp. also refurbished last March a bus stop in Koblerville to promote the Village Neighborhood Watch, as well as donated yellow paint for the Northern Islands residents who took part last Saturday in the "Adopt-a-place" program of the Municipal Council.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ramon B. Camacho, front row left, chairman of the 11th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council, hands a certificate of appreciation to Hong Kyun Kim, president of P&A Corp which owns the Korean newspaper *Saipan Times*, during a brief ceremony yesterday at the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku in Chalan Kanoa.

"His dedication to help the Village Neighborhood Watch goes to show that Mr. Kim is not just here for profit. He's here to promote a safe and healthy community that everybody living on Saipan can enjoy," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Another company, R&M, donated 29 laminated posters that contain the same messages, and Camacho noted that they are still soliciting from other businesses to donate or contribute to the cause of the Saipan Neighborhood Watch, Inc.

Camacho said both the banners and posters will be distributed and installed in various villages on island once they are able to organize each Neighborhood Watch group on island.

He added that the promotional materials will be put up in conspicuous places to encourage other community members to join the Neighborhood Watch and help protect their respective areas, as well as prevent criminal-minded people from breaking the law.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 28, 1999

Marianas Cleaner ordered to clean up contaminant

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality has ordered the Marianas Cleaners to clean up trichloroethylene or TCE, a cancer-causing chemical polluting the groundwater in Susupe area. According to a press release, the company was ordered to take action after the TCE level found in the area was more than the CNMI drinking water standard. DEQ is currently monitoring if the clean up is being properly done by Marianas Cleaners. Last month, a well used to supply water to the Suntex garment manufacturing facility was also discovered to have detectable levels of numerous volatile organic chemicals. TCE was at a level greater than the CNMI drinking water standard and the factory voluntarily discontinued use of its well.

Feds, CNMI agree on work plan for Marpi landfill

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has made a commitment to help the CNMI government hurdle the biggest obstacle in getting a permit to begin work on the Marpi landfill as scheduled in the year 2000, according to John Harder, Solid Waste Manager. In a recent meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials in Honolulu, Mr. Harder said a working arrangement has been made with them to make sure that the endangered reed warbler, a bird specie endemic to the Northern Marianas, will be protected once construction of the landfill begins. Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the Solid Waste Task Force, Division of Environmental Quality Ignacio Cabrera and Mr. Harder attended the meeting in Hawaii with federal officials.

Dec. 28, 2000

Problem loans besieged CDA in 2000

Economic slowdown during the past 12 months has given birth to a distressing growth in the number of remiss borrowers, indicated by reports that at least 20 percent of all loans issued by the Commonwealth Development Authority became delinquent this year. By end-December 1999, CDA recorded a 15-percent delinquency rate. According to CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio, the increase in the number of delinquent borrowers could easily translate to more than $2 million in unpaid and overdue receivables from the agency's $80 million portfolio each year. The government-controlled financial institution's monthly collections fell by more than 40 percent from the average $700,000 last year to only $400,000 this year.

PSS works on OPA recommendations

The Public School System has directed the Marianas High School, the PSS legal counsel and key personnel to begin addressing the recommendations by the Office of Public Auditor in connection with the alleged mismanagement of MHS Food Court. OPA this month released a report tasking PSS to immediately look into the possible involvement of the MHS administration in the alleged irregularities on the purchase of supplies and services using a special trust fund. Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos expressed yesterday optimism PSS will "mediate its differences" with OPA, after she dismissed allegations of any "wrongdoing" in so far as program funds for the Food Court are concerned.

Dec. 28, 2001

More funding sources eyed to keep CPA afloat

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is carefully studying remaining options to defray operational costs and deficits brought on by the slowdown in seaport activities due to the September 11 terror attacks. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas admitted that the temporary suspension of the new seaport tariff rates has drastically affected the fiscal standing of the seaport division. Salas explained that once the tariff suspension is lifted in March 2002, the seaport division will realize an increase in revenues, thus helping minimize deficit in operational costs and expenditures.

New assistive tech funding explored

The CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities recently met with officials of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to discuss statewide system of technology for individuals with disabilities. GCDD Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho said he met briefly with NIDDR head Steven Tingus during his recent visit in Washington DC. Tingus was the director of the California Assistive Technology Act of 1988, which administered the ACT and funding made available to states and territories.

10 candidates fail to file campaign statement

»Did not request for extension

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

About 10 candidates in the Nov. 6, 2012 mid-term elections have not filed their detailed campaign statement of account with the Office of the Public Auditor and also have not requested for an extension to file.

As the deadline to file was on Wednesday, Dec. 26, those 10 candidates are facing a $100 daily fine beginning yesterday.

OPA auditor Wilma Atalig said yesterday that 20 candidates were able to beat Wednesday's deadline with Rep. Ray N. Yumul (IR-Saipan) was the last to come and submit at 4pm.

Atalig said that, in total, 56 candidates and one political party, Covenant Party, filed their campaign finance report.

Atalig said 14 candidates and the Republican Party requested the Commonwealth Election Commission to give them extension to file.

Of those 14, two already filed, including Representative-elect Mariano Taitano who submitted his campaign statement yesterday afternoon.

CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero on Monday approved Taitano's request for an extension and allowed the Rep.-elect until Jan. 12, 2013 to file.

Taitano said he requested for an extension because he was so busy with his own "personal agenda."

Taitano said in preparation for Three Kings on Jan. 6, he was actually busy cleaning his house that has a huge lot that requires a full-time gardener.

He said in his campaign, he raised $4,355 and spent $5,489.90, leaving $1,134.90 out of his own pocket.

Pursuant to Public Law 12-18 or the NMI Election Reform Act of 2000, those required to file a mandatory, complete, signed, dated, and verified campaign statement of account include winners and losers in the election.

Farmer's Market revised schedule

This is to inform the general public that the Tuesday Farmer's Market normally scheduled on Dec. 25, 2012 and Jan. 1, 2013 shall be moved to Monday, Dec. 24, 2012, Christmas Eve, and Dec. 31, 2012, New Year's Eve.

Regular schedule for Tuesday Farmer's Market shall resume on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013, after the holidays. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

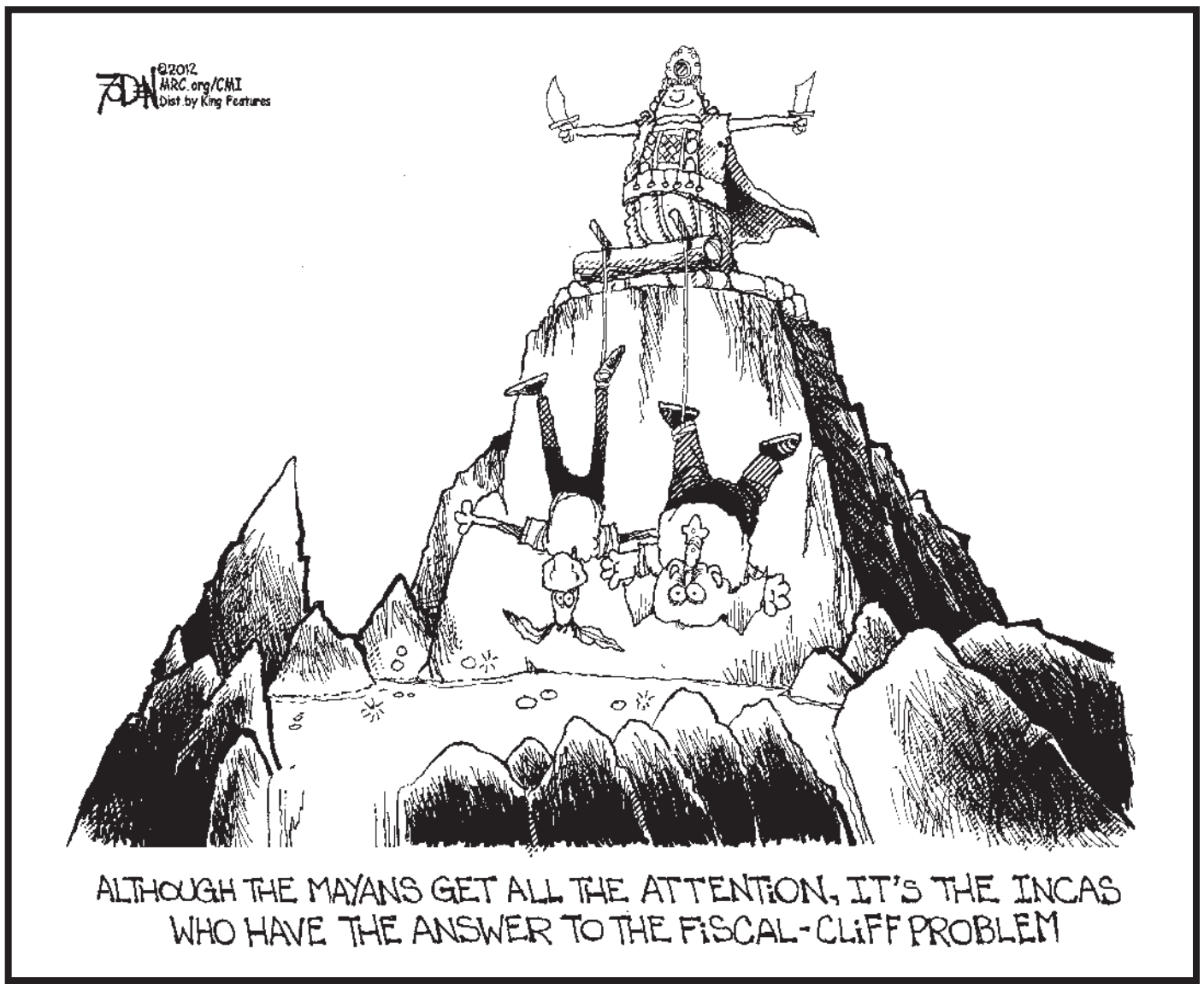
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. ___

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



Cutting bait

Although Saipan has tallied yet another year of inept economic bungling, I'm not up for hand-wringing over Saipan's economy, or, for that matter, any other economy. After all, when it comes right down to it, the only economic factor we can really control is our own actions.

So even when we can't fish, we can still cut bait.

With that in mind, here's an interesting insight that came from a self-made millionaire who owns his own jet: He said that people who find their fortunes often do it via their secondary line of work.

At first I thought that wisdom seemed counterintuitive. But then I realized we're dealing with a self-selecting deck. The type of people who are willing to undertake a second line of work are probably more energetic and engaged in their own futures than people who just passively hope that things will work out somehow. The very act of learning new things seems to open doors down the road. This applies in Saipan just as much as it applies anywhere else.

Just to get a feel for this factor, I listed people I've known who, instead of spending their free time watching TV, playing computer games, or idling at the coffee house, took it upon themselves to learn new things. Alas, most did not find fortunes, but they still managed to improve their lives substantially.

The first guy on my list lived in Alabama, just up the road from me in the piney woods. He liked to work with wood, so he messed around in his garage making furniture as a hobby. He eventually wound selling a few pieces. Then he sold a few more. Before too long he was so busy he quit his day job and he never looked back, the world, or at least that part of it, pretty much beat a path to his door.

Meanwhile, at about that time the great computer revolution was under way. I knew all manner of people who would drop $20 on a programming book and teach themselves to code in C or some such other marketable language. One programmer I keep in touch with was an engineer who was mired in a nasty downdraft in the job market, so she taught herself programming. These days she works from home. The thought of going back to normal, cubicle-bound corporate employment makes her laugh.

And then there's the guy I used to fly airplanes with. He liked to spend his free time puttering around on a boat and fishing. He was a gregarious type, a natural salesman and a natural tour-guide. The last time I saw him we had lunch together: he was a full-time charter boat skipper and owner, taking executives and other well-paying tourists on day-trip fishing excursions. He got to sleep in his own cozy little home just about every night, and could take or leave business as he chose. I, by contrast, was on my way overseas for a lonely, six-month flying contract.

I've known a couple of successful novelists. They didn't go to novelist school somewhere and land guaranteed writing jobs, but they just burned the midnight oil solo at the kitchen table, honing their craft for years of invisible and thankless toil. Then they hit pay dirt. Of course, for every success story there a lot of non-success stories, but that doesn't change the underlying chain of events here.

See CUTTING on Next Page

Innocence

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.



It is Innocents' day in Christendom, to commemorate the massacre of newborn males in Bethlehem allegedly ordered by King Herod when the Three Kings failed to stop at the palace after they tracked down the eastern star. Nice dramatic Middle Eastern touch save that Matthew lifted it out off the Moses story when young males were ordered killed also while the Hebrew exodus leader was yet to suck his thumb in the cradle.

The plight of innocents has been a strong undercurrent in liberal causes, ours included, in the phrase "innocent suffering". MLK Jr.'s considered unearned suffering as redemptive, giving a non-Baptist twist to the plight of African-American flight and fight from bonded servitude and discrimination into the "oasis of justice" in the Civil Rights struggle.

In a world grown interrelated and interlaced, incidences of innocence have grown so intertwined and interconnected to the rest of existence that to claim clean hands on anything jaded has become untenable. Either in acts of omission or commission, each participates in the fate and destiny of one's life. Indeed, no person is an island. Culture already taints us from the hour of conception into human practices hardly considered pure and chaste even before birth.

The tutorial center where I volunteer on the weekends had three middle class parents approach our coordinator inquiring if I can tutor their 6-year-old "treasured snowflakes" (reference to the 2nd generation "little emperors" in China's one-child policy) in oral English to qualify them to the elite Yi Cai bilingual school on the outskirt of the city. They even bought apartments in the area so that they can qualify for the residency requirement.

The three tots spend their Sunday afternoons from midday to two-chimes-after-sunset, on their parents' schedule and comfort, in one hour-and-a-half session each, wading through basic Math (not arithmetic, mind you), oral, written, and vocabulary lessons in English. Children who would otherwise be freely at play, or have their imaginations set loose to horizons never threaded before, sit quietly before teachers, to be instructed on quantifiable patterns and the intricacies of a foreign organic language.

Other than the natural rebellion when exceeding the attention span of seven minutes, the bored children participate in their "suffering" as a matter of obedience to parents, as well as partake at an early age, the gleam of the status symbol attached to attending the school of their intention. They are hardly innocent!

Innocence as the lack of guilt, legal or otherwise, is no longer an experienced external reality. It has moved to the realm of the subjunctive. It has become a matter of attitude.

Avril Ramona Lavigne, the multi-talented French-Canadian performer, croons her Innocence in our Oral English class:

Waking up I see
that everything is OK
The first time in my life
and now it's so great
Slowing down I look around
and I am so amazed
I think about the little things
that make life great
I wouldn't change a thing about it
This is the best feeling.

Not that I have anything against the "I'm OK, you're OK" mindset, but it does sound boring, if not delusionary. This "best feeling" is innocence in my students' familiarity. We refer to this as the illusion of romantic longing, totally internal and in the realm of a preferred personal perspective, consigned to the universe of moods and sentiments.

Asked what Christmas meant to our first generation China one-child-only denizens who went about their celebrative mood this year, and we get the nebulous "I am together with my family and we are happy" response.

Corollary to the stance of innocence is the claim of victimization. Romney got a trouncing in the polls because he had the temerity to dub 47 percent of the American population as sorry victims of misfortune simply out to leech off the largesse of the more fortunate productive and well-off ones through the distributive justice programs of the Federal government. He expressed a popular sentiment devoid of lucidity and truth.

The Church calls Herod's alleged senseless political executions "holy innocents". The term is often applied to refugees caught in the crossfire between government goons and their hardly quixotic opponents. We've known enough fleeing refugees from Vietnam to the Philippines, Chinese beholden to tongs wanting to head for NYC for $30K, Afghans and Iranis heading for Australia, even Yanbians wishing to cross into Korea, the huge undocumented immigrants in the US, and the overstaying visitors in Japan. The EU had a more enlightened policy on migrants until reactive forces got too wary and anxious.

See INNOCENCE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Irresponsible and incompetent

The way the trustee and the Fund in general have handled the withdrawal and refund process is to say the least irresponsible and incompetent, and is at worst despicable.

The trustee's last letter to members (Nov. 27, 2012) included the line "statements made by the administration have been misleading...". Unfortunately, it seems statements made by the trustee have been no less "misleading." Stated by the trustee in that same letter was, "In order to fully comply with PL 17-82, the Fund needs to have received all of the DB Members' employee contributions." Within days of these statements, the Fund received the payment of these employee contributions. They have, however, despite their words… failed to "fully comply" with the law. In that same letter, the trustee also stated, "I would like to assure you that the Fund is continuing to process PL 17-82 applications, and is investigating options to refund employee contributions as soon as possible." Not one single additional member has seen the online status of the processing of their application changed since this letter was written. Actually, no member has seen progress on their application since Nov. 16, well over a month ago. At the rate of current processing, which is averaging five or six members a day, it will take upwards of a year to complete.

And counter to the trustee's statement that they are "investigating options to refund employee contributions as soon as possible," the Fund has pursued and has indicated it will further pursue measures that will continue to delay compliance with PL 17-82. It is a circus of the ridiculous. After making the statement to the media that an expedited request has been forwarded to judge Tydinco-Gatewood to on her approval, refund those members who are in compliance... Fund attorney Braddock Huesman comes out a day after that "advice" was slated to be given, and announces that refunds will go unpaid until the judge issues an order to pay, and then a motion challenging the interest will be made by the Fund. Where then are the "misleading statements" coming from?

The trustee's letters of Nov. 13 and 27, and *Marianas Variety* story of Dec. 19, in a less than straightforward way seem to attempt to link the employer contributions in arrears as one of the valid reasons for their noncompliance with PL 17-82. Any attempt to hold member refunds hostage until employer-side contributions are paid, as members at this point would be reasonable to construe is what is happening, is supported by no part of the law. The members were held hostage to encourage PSS to remit a shortfall of its employee contributions, and one can surmise that because this "worked"... the Fund has decided to up the ante and use that same strategy to strong-arm the government into paying its employer contributions. Some of their statements have seemed to point to that anyway.

With regard to "equal treatment," a term that has been thrown around a lot lately, the actions and proposed actions of Fund management, in no way, shape or form constitute "equal treatment." Certainly they do not constitute any definition of equal treatment that might be common to you or me. How is taking a portion of someone's pay for years, using it to invest, and returning it without even a minute amount of interest, when retirees in many cases have seen their contributions returned two-, three-, four-, and five-fold, and when there are good numbers of "retirees" collecting checks from the Fund every 15 days who worked for the CNMI for only a couple of years, considered "equal treatment?" How is paying out the first batch of refunds to a segment of active employee members and not the rest "equal treatment"? It's simply not.

What should have happened? The Fund had substantial time between the period PL 17-82 was passed and they made good on the first refunds to review the law. If they did not review the law thoroughly at that time, they should have. Presumably they did, as the actuary's opinion that it was "invalid" not only did not prompt a challenge from the Fund, but they went ahead with the development of a withdrawal application process, and further paid out the first batch of refunds. If the Fund's accounting was as immaculate as was indicated in the trustee's letter of Nov. 13, they could have, and should have known the status of employee contributions, and dealt with any issues before refunding the first batch of withdrawn members. The point of no return was crossed after that first batch of members was refunded.

While the trustee cited the ongoing lawsuits as part of his initial reason to cease refunds, after of course paying out that first batch of refunds, the actions of the Fund (and inaction) have now opened them up to plethora of new lawsuits that are surely coming.

It was wholly reasonable for members to believe, that after the Fund did not challenge PL 17-82, and then paid the first batch of refunds, that they could move forward with their plans related to their refund. Many took out loans, with the ability to repay those loans contingent on the receipt of their refunds, by the dates prescribed by the law. Many members expended personal funds they likely wouldn't have, had they any concern about not receiving what were seemingly forthcoming refunds. Many members spent considerable time and personal resources, and in some cases have put out initial monetary obligations towards their planned reinvestments. In my case, my wife and I ended up losing a residential property that the property owner could no longer hold for us. It was an opportunity that rarely comes around, and we are more than likely not going to come across such a deal again.

I have worked for about 27 years now, close to 22 of these years in various capacities for the CNMI government. I will probably have to work at least another 20 years, to see a hand-to-mouth retirement now Such is the case with most active members. I have during my tenure had significant amounts of my wages withheld. Wages that could have been used to put to a home, or help our kids with college funds, or pay for a family medical plan, or simply meet the necessities of life ... and now not only are we told the Fund is going to drag out this process even longer, engaging in some process to negate the interest, but worse, to continue to prevent us from reinvesting our monies through senseless delays. While they might use flowery words to suggest their concern for members, and act as if they are working diligently to see us refunded, it has become crystal clear that this is far from the truth.

I'd venture to say that many members about now would prefer that the Fund be returned to local hands. At the very least we'd know that there would be a modicum of concern for all members at the helm of the Fund, and I know that this community will do what it must in the end, be it through taxes, cuts or fees, or all of the above, to see retirees are taken care of. Many of us do not hold that same confidence in the attorneys who are now charged with its management. In fact, it seems it has become a trough to feed from. And the constant promulgation of issues related to refunding active members by the Fund, just another way to drag things out for billing's sake.

What is the trustee's plan exactly? Right now active employee members have no idea, and do not trust that statements made by the trustee and Fund attorneys are the truth. One would think the Fund would communicate honestly with its members? This hasn't been the case. The trustee has put out hodge-podge and vague statements, has made statements about actions that would be carried out that haven't, has sprung secretive plans on members, and after veering from previous statements and positions—made no effort to provide follow-up to members... instead, swaths of members have been left to wonder what the heck is going on. This pattern of behavior alone should be enough to have all members very concerned. At the same time, they have billed the CNMI government for three months of work that amounts to the entirety of contributions of two or three members and what many of our agencies operate on for a year.

After PSS paid their employee contributions, the point of contention the trustee's letter of Nov. 27, he should have issued a clear and honest statement. After any consultations with the judge on Dec. 17, he should have made a clear and honest statement. After the article appeared in the *Marianas Variety* on Dec. 18, with a mishmash of worrisome statements from Fund attorney Huesman, he should have made a clear and honest statement. And following the *Marianas Variety* article of Dec. 19 that sounded like the Fund was pinning compliance with PL 17-82 on the payment of employer contributions, he should have made a clear and honest statement. Members should know exactly what the Funds' plans are, and the Fund should speak clearly and honestly to its members about its plans. The Fund has an obligation to be honest with its members.

A meeting of all active employee members to discuss available responses and actions we can proceed with as a group, to see full compliance with PL 17-82, is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 4, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Theater. All active employee members are encouraged to attend.

Robert H. Hunter
Active employee member

Challenge to CNMI employers

I would like to take this opportunity and call for a challenge to employers in the hiring of good, reliable and dependable U.S eligible workers. No, this is not a challenge of your skills, abilities, and job knowledge when selecting a candidate to fill your job needs because you are the experts on this but rather a challenge to help you cope with transitional activities to hire qualified and available U.S eligible workers to fill job needs within your organization presented by the phase out situation by December 2014.

Every employer now should be assessing their future job needs that they see detrimental to their operation and business success. In fact, their mental state should bare the burden that the hiring of foreign national worker to fill their job needs is temporary until qualified and available U.S eligible workers fill such needs since the choice of becoming dependant on foreign national workers is coming to an end soon.

Employers are faced with a situation that is between a "rock and a hard place." There are faced with a phase out situation that renders them little or no choice by December 2014. I am sure, as witness that employers are scrambling to transition from the dependency of foreign national worker to perform their functions that is detrimental to their business success, into the U.S eligible workers workforce participation. While a handful of legitimate employers are handling this challenge with a calm and collected mind by planning and organizing ahead of time to meet this dateline, still there are those who "sit and wait" hoping that there will be extensions of this dateline.

Laws exist for employers to follow its requirement and maintaining order on this issue. Let us put this aside, not encouraging its' violation, and built a working relationship with you as employers in an interactive way rather than what is required by authority. This working relationship will build trust, reliability and dependability, when hiring U.S eligible workers to fill their work needs, and will put more good and reliable U.S eligible workers on jobs. This will create a CNMI Job Bank and Job Seeker bank that will provide convenience by having "punch of button" accessibility for both employers and job seekers. It will become th best labor market information here in the CNMI.

See CHALLENGE on Page 14

CUTTING

From Page 10

If writing seems glamorous, we can contemplate something even better, courtesy of a relative who jet-sets all over the world giving performances. He's a professional break-dancer. Nobody told him to learn to break-dance; he just pursued that endeavor in his spare time. So there he is, with gorgeous models wiggling around him on TV shows and music videos. He's been doing this for a lot of years, so it's not just a flash in the pan.

Anyway, in all these examples, these folks started out by cutting bait on their own time, and with absolutely no guarantees that they'd land anything. So were they making leaps of faith? Were they making reckless investments in their hopes? I don't think so. I just think they were determined not to squander their time.

Ah, time. It's the one thing we not only get to spend, but that we have to spend. And, despite clichés to the contrary, we really can't save it, or borrow it, or buy it.

I wish I could get better at how I allocate my time. But I just muddle along at my usual pace, sometimes fishing, sometimes cutting bait, and sometimes just watching the waters from my beach chair.

INNOCENCE

From Page 10

"Innocents" is not a word I use to describe the destitute sectors of humanity.

But the issue of rights falls squarely at the core of our times. There are issues on economic justice that precedes political ones. Culture is hardly questioned but it exerts considerable influence on everything that we do. Gun culture, anyone? NRA's Wayne La Pierre (Le Prick in French, I was told) boldly asserts that guns are not the problem but the solution to senseless killings. More armed guards are needed in public places. Thanks, but no, thanks.

Manipulative and coercive practices continue to shape our behavior. We might keep the "feeling" but change the practices. Perhaps it is time to redefine innocence.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

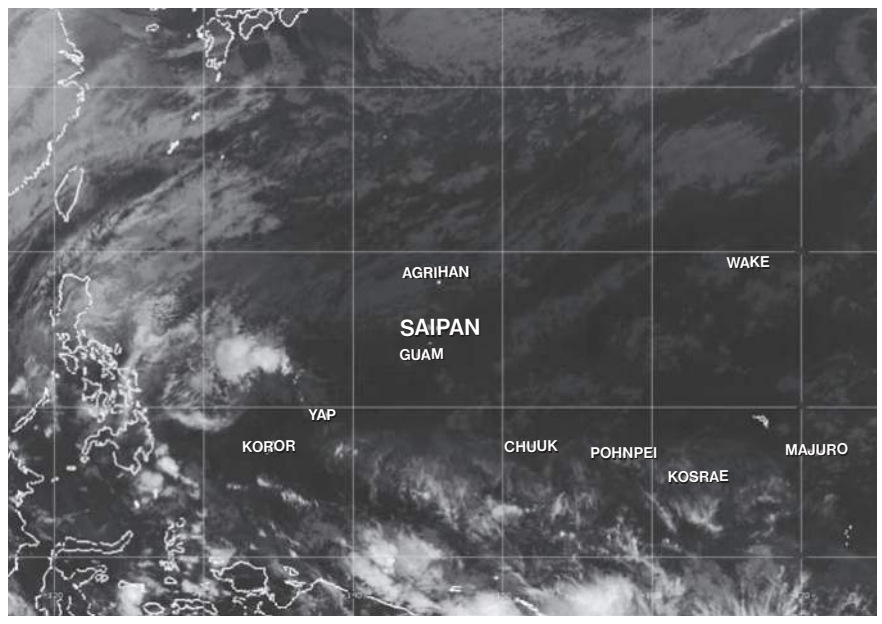
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲26	▼13
Hong Kong	Showers	▲67	▼51
Honolulu	Sunny	▲79	▼68
London	Showers	▲55	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲61	▼44
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼70
New York	Sunny	▲37	▼29
Osaka	Showers	▲54	▼43
Paris	Showers	▲52	▼44
Pusan	Cloudy	▲50	▼36
Rome	Sunny	▲58	▼42
Salem	Showers	▲41	▼34
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲54	▼45
Seoul	Ice	▲38	▼19
Tokyo	Showers	▲50	▼40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is producing an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Palau between 11N and 14N from 130E to 136E. A near-equatorial trough extends from near 4N140E to EQ144E. Scattered showers associated with the trough can be found between the equator and 2N from 140E to 146E. A shear line stretches from 25N170E to 25N162E to 18N150E across the Northern Marianas to 15N140E to 15N130E. Patchy clouds and showers are located along and up to 370 miles north of the boundary. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating an area of scattered showers within 100 miles of a line that stretches from 13N150E to 18N157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:51 PM	6:13 AM
Saturday	8:41 PM	7:00 AM
Sunday	7:32 PM	7:44 AM
Monday	8:22 PM	8:27 AM
Tuesday	9:12 PM	9:09 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU7108	4:05am	5:55am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM
UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



Thank You!

As we put a cap on 2012, we briefly assess the triumphs and tribulations we've had and the respective roles that government, private sector and local communities play in shaping the future of the CNMI. We are a resilient and persevering people. And in this fast changing world, it is a combination of these plus hard work, that can make a difference.

On behalf of Tan Holdings, I would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to the CNMI and the entire Micronesia region. Thank you for your continued support and partnership through the years.

I wish everyone a truly prosperous New Year! Let us all build a progressive CNMI!

Jerry Tan

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When rules get in the way

I must first state that I do not speak for the college. I speak on my own behalf. I do this because the information that has been issued from different sources about the vote of no confidence has been in many cases misleading. The following statement is based on sentiments from e-mails I have received from concerned faculty, along with my own input. I will name no one and do not wish to impugn anyone's character. I do not wish to offend anyone, but since I am a member of the Northern Marianas College non-instructional faculty and the assembly, I wish to clarify some of the misconceptions of what has occurred over the past few days regarding the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate. I wish to help clarify what is stated in the Faculty constitution, so everyone can have a better understanding of the proper procedures.

At the last board meeting, I asked about the difference between the Faculty Assembly and the Faculty Senate. There seemed to be no clear answer, so I looked up the constitution of Faculty Assembly. The following is a condensed version:

1. The actual organizational name is: Faculty Assembly of the Northern Marianas College
2. The legislative body is called the Faculty Senate
3. The full membership is about 73 members
4. The assembly cannot pass any action unless it has a quorum; that is, about 37 full members must be present at the meeting.

A vote of no confidence is not a casual undertaking. It would require that at least 37 members to be present with wide spread notification that a vote of confidence on the president's leadership was being taken. It was reported that 22 to 24 members were present, which is a far cry from the minimum members need to take action. Most of the committees I am on send out agenda items in advance of the meetings so that faculty members will be kept current on issues and let everyone know what will be discussed. This way, all faculty members would have ample time to communicate their thoughts or concerns with their respective faculty senator or to one of the at-large faculty senate members prior to the meeting if they could not attend; clearly this did not happen. Having a vote of confidence, I think, would require a level of full disclosure and transparency. In the future, this never should never happen again because we must keep a vote like this a good distance from any labor dispute as it muddies up the water as to the reason for the vote as in this case.

Now to the concept of the parliamentary system of governance regarding quorum and why one is needed. A quorum is the minimum number of members of a deliberative assembly (a body that uses parliamentary procedure) necessary to conduct the business of that group. According to Robert's Rules of Order, the "requirement for a quorum is protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the body by an unduly small number of persons." This very closely represents what happened when the vote of no confidence was taken. It brings into question the validity of the actions as being representative of the faculty as a whole. This can be seen as a misleading statement—saying the vote was a vote by the majority of the faculty, when in reality it was 82.6 percent of the faculty present that had voted in favor of no confidence; this does not invalidate the reasoning behind having a quorum and in fact validates the quorum as protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of a governing body.

I have purposely stayed away from the issues brought by the unauthorized action because I believe they must be resolved by the Board of Regents and the president and those involved. Now these issues are at the center of the discussion and the unauthorized actions of a few members of the senate will be lost in the sensationalism of the moment. I look forward to the time when the process and the system will be followed to protect us from the reactionary actions for a more thoughtful and complete airing and resolutions of the issues.

For the reasons given above, it is my position (and the position of other faculty members that I have spoken with) that there has been no legitimate "vote of no confidence" on the president's leadership.

Timothy Baker
NMC

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CHALLENGE

From Page 11

I am mindful of employers' experience when hiring U.S eligible workers to fill their needs. They don't last on the job, or other behaviors has created doubt and are forecasted or branded as a big risk for employers. I do understand that when U.S eligible workers don't last on the job, employers are left with lost of investment and revenue, if not, lacking human resources to perform the functions as a result. All these are taken into account and consideration when developing the programs of the department as we are faced with new eras. I assure you, we are not providing "bottlenecks" in situations that we have jurisdiction of at present, but identifying problems and providing solutions to your satisfaction. So what say you?

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Small craft advisory in effect until Tuesday

The Emergency Management Office has issued a small craft advisory until Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, as seas 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 knots or more are expected to produce conditions hazardous to operators of small craft.

"Inexperienced mariners—especially those operating smaller vessels—should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life-threatening," EMO said in a statement.

High surf advisory also remains in effect until 6pm on Jan. 1, 2013 as fresh to strong trade winds will prevail through Sunday and occasional gusts to near gale force are possible until today, Friday.

EMO said surf, between 9 and 11 feet today, is expected to remain hazardous along north and east facing reefs until next week.

East to northeast winds at 20 to 30 knots are expected through Sunday and combined seas of around 11 feet Thursday build to between 11 and 13 feet on Friday then remain near these levels for the next several days. ***(EMO)***

Extended hours OK'd for sale of liquor on New Year

Just for the New Year celebration, establishments on the island that serve alcoholic beverages will be allowed to extend the sale of liquor up to 4am of Jan. 1, 2013.

The extension will apply only to Class-3 on-sale license holders and does not allow any further expansion of the extended hours, according to a Department of Commerce notice issued yesterday.

The time extension is being provided in accordance with 4 CMC, Section 5556.

These extended hours are only for the evening of Monday, Dec. 31, 2012, until 4am on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013.

"In addition, in observance of the National Drugged and Drunk Driving (3D) Prevention Month, all Class-3 retail dealer on-sale establishments shall exercise responsible alcohol sales and shall encourage their patrons to drink alcohol responsibly during the extended hours of operation," a statement from Commerce read.

"Any abuse of the extension will not be tolerated and shall result in permanent suspension of such privilege," Commerce added.

Contact the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division Hotline at 483-1821 to report any violation of the extended hours of sale. ***(PR)***

Mariners urged to exercise caution in high surf conditions

APRA HARBOR, Guam— Whenever there is a high surf or small craft advisory, mariners should check the current and forecasted weather conditions prior to getting underway and leave a float plan with a responsible individual. Surf conditions are especially hazardous when entering or leaving harbors and near inlets and reef lines. Mariners should remain aware of changing conditions once on the water. Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners: if in doubt, don't go out!

Boaters are strongly encouraged to have a VHF marine radio on board to monitor weather conditions, communicate with other mariners and call for help in the event of an emergency. The Coast Guard reminds all mariners that channel 16 is the emergency channel and is monitored around-the-clock.

In addition, marinas and local boaters are reminded to check that boats in port are properly secured, bilge pumps are functional, and all loose items are removed from decks. Report any boats adrift, pollution or other maritime emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG.

Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners to consider the following:

■ Leave a float plan—with a responsible individual who knows your intentions, location and who they should call if you do not return as scheduled.

■ Always have flares and other visual distress signals—inspect them regularly; they can save your life and help rescuers find you at night should you be in distress.

■ Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket—and set the example for your passengers or paddling partners. Before getting underway, verify you have enough life jackets for everyone on board.

■ Maintain awareness on the water—be aware of activity around your vessel including changing weather, and always know your location.

■ Don't boat alone—boating alone is not recommended. Recreational paddlers canoeists and kayakers often travel with a single craft and one partner, or even solo, but it is recommended you canoe, kayak or boat with at least three people or two craft.

■ Know your limitations—be honest with yourself and your companions. Your life and the lives of those in your party may depend on how everyone understands each other's capabilities.

Beach safety tips:

■ Know the terrain—be aware of and avoid drop-offs and hidden obstacles in natural water sites. Always enter water feet first.

■ Avoid rip currents—watch for dangerous waves and signs of rip currents, like water that is discolored and choppy, foamy, or filled with debris and moving in a channel away from shore. If you are caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore; once free of the current, swim diagonally toward shore.

■ Be on the lookout—when swimmers are in or near water closely supervise them at all times, even when lifeguards are present. Always use the buddy system, don't swim alone.

For safety equipment requirements based on the size and type of your vessel, visit: http://www.uscgboating.org. For local National Weather Service advisories, visit: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam. ***(PR)***

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39 years of providing the best coverage and protection



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The management and staff of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. proudly celebrate 39 years of providing the best insurance coverage and protection to its customers in the CNMI.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. revels in the successes it has achieved this year as one of the oldest insurance companies in the Commonwealth proudly celebrates 39 years of providing the best coverage and protection to its customers.

This important milestone in Pacifica Insurance's history is a glowing testament to its commitment in offering comprehensive insurance policies that work to give clients the best value out of their premiums.

"When people and businesses purchase insurance, commitment of an insurance company is an integral part of that decision because you want to know that the company you are dealing with will always strive to do what's best for you in order to stay in business," explained general manager Shirley Sablan.

Being in the business for almost four decades, Pacifica Insurance by far has demonstrated its in-depth experience and reliability as an insurance provider, attributing its longevity to the trust and loyalty of its customers.

Pacifica Insurance makes for a "safe investment," according to Sablan, as the company is backed by carriers with strong financial ratings and with a long-term and stable outlook, and continues to focus on constantly innovating existing business initiatives and sharing its triumphs with its clients.

Just recently, the company forged a partnership with Aetna International, a premium insurance company doing business with the CNMI government for years.

"Our company is now an agent of Aetna International. What this partnership would do is offer private companies the same premium insurance benefits that the local government have enjoyed and continue to enjoy," she said.

Pacifica Insurance also launched this year the Pacifica Road Aid, a roadside service assistance program that is an add-on, free-of-charge benefit for all personal automobile policyholders. In partnership with Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited, the program offers services such as towing, gas fill up, jump start, and key lockout.

Pacifica Insurance likewise continues to offer the loyalty program called Pacifica Loyalty to existing policyholders in an effort to provide them benefits while enjoying a lot of savings; and the highly successful Shopping Spree Giveaway promotion that will be replaced with a new offer to give customers something to look forward to.

The company also invested heavily in upgrading its information technology system, an ongoing effort that aims to enhance Pacifica Insurance's efficiency and effectiveness.

Sablan said such programs and undertakings are designed to give Pacifica Insurance clients incentives on top of the benefits that they receive, making them "Rest Assured" that their policy works for them and that the company will take care of their insurance needs.

"We live in an imperfect world," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*. "And in an imperfect world, there may be catastrophic events that go deep into our pockets. This is why we all understand how important insurance is. We cannot risk losing our prized possessions and savings. Pacifica Insurance is here to share in the risk and is committed to doing it right. We will always be ready to serve your insurance needs."

Norman Tenorio, president and chief executive officer, thanked everyone who have supported Pacifica Insurance in the last 39 years.

While the unstable economic climate on the islands has made it very challenging for businesses to operate, Pacifica Insurance strongly believes it will come out strong beyond this fiscal year, having seen an upsurge in its business transactions by putting emphasis on its high quality products and services.

Tenorio said they are optimistic in the upward trend in the tourism industry, which would have a positive impact in the insurance and other businesses in the islands in 2013 and beyond.

"We will continue to strive for continuous improvement to ensure customer satisfaction and long-term success. Despite the economic challenges, we will do what is necessary to stay in business. We are committed, but we also need your support in the coming years," he added.

For more information, visit Pacifica Insurance at the second floor of Joeten Center in Susupe, log on to www.pacificains.com, their Facebook page, or call 234-6267 / 7722 / 7310.





NMC hosts free info session on Jan. 7

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend a free information session hosted by the Northern Marianas College on Jan. 7, 2013.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will be held on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

Those who attend the information session will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2013 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting on Jan. 18.

The Marianas High School class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join us in our general meeting, which will be held on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, 7pm at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion, Susupe, Civic Center Beach.

If you have any question, please call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665 for more inquiry.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 13th birthday to Joseph "Erap" Ejercito who is celebrating his special day today, Dec. 28. Greeting from Dad Joey, Mom Lynn, Josh, Joyce, Jehp, and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I'm so glad that God has blessed us with a wonderful son like you. And on your birthday today, Dec. 28, let us express our warmest birthday wishes for you. We love you our dear Branden Asher.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Nicole Evette Mahora Kapileo. Whether you are far or near, you are always on Daddy's mind and prayers. Happy 10th birthday my Princess. Love you always from Daddy and the family.

Report on Buy Local Guam Initiative released

The University of Guam's Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives (PCEI) is pleased to release its 17th technical report entitled The Buy Local Initiative on Guam and Its Effectiveness, authored by its resident development economist and UOG Professor of Economics, Dr. Maria Claret Ruane.

More than one year since the Buy Local initiative on Guam embarked on its educational campaign which received funding from the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, there has been interest on whether the campaign and initiative have had an effect on local residents' awareness of Buy Local, as well as the perception of the initiative's importance to our island economy and more importantly, whether the initiative has changed the behavior of local residents in terms of shifting purchases toward local sources and away from the "Three O's": on-base, online and off-island.

According to UOG PCEI's project director and dean of the School of Business and Public Administration, Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, the data revealed that the Buy Local campaign has been effective since it was first launched at John Bernardo's Dragonfruit Farm in Ordot on Oct. 19, 2011.

Based on the responses of 435 participants in a face-to-face survey conducted in November, the study found the following:

■ Media channels such as radio and TV as well as word-of-mouth (as expected in a small community like Guam) have been the means by which most survey respondents first learned about "Buy Local";

■ As expected, local residents have attached different meanings to the phrase "Buy Local" or, more importantly, the term "local", that this challenge is not germane to the Buy Local initiative but has reflected itself in broader discussions (including those related to the military build-up) and will continue to be a challenge in the future in discussions affecting our island community;

■ The Buy Local campaign has been effective one year since its marketing/educational campaign, as reflected in increasing local residents'

➤ Awareness of buying local (one year later, 83.29 percent of respondents are aware of Buy Local);

➤ Understanding the importance of buying local to our island community (one year later, 93.78 percent of respondents think buying local is important to our island);

➤ Support of the initiative (one year later, 87.10 percent of respondents are supportive of buying local); and

➤ More importantly, in affecting local residents' spending behavior by shifting their purchases toward local businesses (one year later, 90.60 percent of respondents indicated that they now purchase more from local vendors instead of the military base, online source, or shopping during their off-island trips, with 58.07 percent purchasing at least 41 percent more from local vendors than one year ago); and

■ The top reasons to support buying local are to:

➤ Keep the dollars circulating/multiplying in the local economy (23.08 percent responses);

➤ Create local jobs (18.03 percent responses); and

➤ Increase local tax revenues (13.68 percent responses).

The University of Guam Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives (UOG PCEI) is a regional project funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). It intends to help build local entrepreneurship capacity and local information resource capacity, as part of its comprehensive approach towards entrepreneurship and economic development in the regional areas of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). ***(PR)***



Naval Base Guam medics resuscitate 1-year-old girl

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) Fire and Emergency Services (FES) medics resuscitated a 1-year-old girl who was brought to Station 2 on Naval Magazine Site in Santa Rita last Dec. 24.

Upon arrival, the girl was unconscious, unresponsive and had acute cyanosis from lack of oxygen. Medics performed approximately 10 back blows in an attempt to dislodge the obstruction. Once her airway was clear, medics then delivered oxygen and the patient's condition improved.

NBG FES personnel Capt. Nick Perez, Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Andrew Babas, Firefighter J.P. Taimanglo, Firefighter Ted Borja and Paramedic Gregory Simon were the first to treat the infant, said NBG FES Fire Chief Robert Green.

"After back blows and oxygen was delivered, (she) was able to move (her hands) initially and cyanosis eventually went away," Green said.

Station 2 medics and Advanced Life Support from Station 1 on NBG continued to monitor the girl's vitals as she was transported to Guam Memorial Hospital.

"I was relieved that she started to breathe on her own," Perez said. "It was the best gift I could receive and give—to give someone back their life especially during the holiday season."

Emergency response to the incident was an example of the Mutual Aid Agreement between NBG FES and the Guam Fire Department to ensure that emergency service resources are available at all times.

"We have responded to 158 medical mutual aids with GFD so far this year," Green said. "That many calls keep us sharp and proficient in our medical skills."

Perez agreed with Green and added that medical incidents should be addressed immediately regardless of who the patient is.

"As first responders we're here to save lives," he said. "When it comes to life, there are no boundaries. I'm happy that everything's fine and I'm glad we were able to bring her back. I thank God that it worked for our favor and hers as well."

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

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Congratulations on your 39th Anniversary!
Greetings from
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Business

Settlement reached in Toyota acceleration cases

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. said Wednesday it has reached a settlement worth more than $1 billion in a case involving unintended acceleration problems in its vehicles.

The company said the deal will resolve hundreds of lawsuits from Toyota owners who said the value of their cars and trucks plummeted after a series of recalls stemming from claims that Toyota vehicles accelerated unintentionally.

Steve Berman, a lawyer representing Toyota owners, said the settlement is the largest in U.S. history involving automobile defects.

"We kept fighting and fighting and we secured what we think was a good settlement given the risks of this litigation," Berman told The Associated Press.

The proposed deal was filed Wednesday and must receive the approval of U.S. District Judge James Selna, who was expected to review the settlement Friday.

Toyota said it will take a one-time, $1.1 billion pre-tax charge against earnings to cover the estimated costs of the settlement. Berman said the total value of the deal is between $1.2 billion and $1.4 billion.

Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed against Toyota since 2009, when the Japanese automaker started receiving numerous complaints that its cars accelerated on their own, causing crashes, injuries and even deaths.

The cases were consolidated in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana and divided into two categories: economic loss and wrongful death. Claims by people who seek compensation for injury and death due to sudden acceleration are not part of the settlement; the first trial involving those suits is scheduled for February.

As part of the economic loss settlement, Toyota will offer cash payments from a pool of about $250 million to eligible customers who sold vehicles or turned in leased vehicles between September 2009 and December 2010.

The company also will launch a $250 million program for 16 million current owners to provide supplemental warranty coverage for certain vehicle components, and it will retrofit about 3.2 million vehicles with a brake override system. An override system is designed to ensure a car will stop when the brakes are applied, even if the accelerator pedal is depressed.

The settlement would also establish additional driver education programs and fund new research into advanced safety technologies.

"In keeping with our core principles, we have structured this agreement in ways that work to put our customers first and demonstrate that they can count on Toyota to stand behind our vehicles," said Christopher Reynolds, Toyota vice president and general counsel.

US economy could handle short fall over 'fiscal cliff'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economic threat that's kept many Americans on edge for months is nearing reality—unless the White House and Republicans cut a budget deal by New Year's Day.

Huge tax increases. Deep cuts in domestic and defense programs. The likelihood of sinking stock prices, reduced consumer spending and corporate layoffs. The risk of a recession within months.

Still, the start of 2013 may turn out to be far less bleak than feared. For one thing, the two sides may strike a short-term agreement before New Year's that postpones spending cuts until spring. President Barack Obama and members of Congress return to Washington Thursday.

Even if New Year's passed with no deal, businesses and consumers would not likely panic as long as some agreement seemed imminent. The $671 billion in tax increases and spending cuts could be retroactively repealed.

And the impact of the tax increases would be felt only gradually. Most people would receive slightly less money in each paycheck.

"The simple conclusion that going off the cliff necessarily means a recession next year is wrong," says Lewis Alexander, an economist at Nomura Securities. "It will ultimately depend on how long the policies are in place."

It's always possible that negotiations between President Obama and Republican congressional leaders will collapse in acrimony. The prospect of permanent tax increases and spending cuts could cause many consumers and businesses to delay spending, hiring or expanding.

Without any agreement at all for months, the fiscal cliff would cause the U.S. economy to shrink 0.5 percent in the first half of 2013 and fall into recession, the Congressional Budget Office estimates.

But most economists expect a deal, if not by New Year's then soon after. Businesses and consumers will likely remain calm as long as negotiators seem to be moving toward an agreement.

Stores look to week after Christmas for sales

By MAE ANDERSON and CANDICE CHOI
AP RETAIL WRITERS

Bargain-hungry Americans will need to go on a post-Christmas spending binge to salvage this holiday shopping season.

Despite the huge discounts and other incentives that stores offered leading up to Christmas, U.S. holiday sales so far this year have been the weakest since 2008, when the nation was in a deep recession.

So stores now are depending on the days after Christmas to make up lost ground: The final week of December can account for about 15 percent of the month's sales, and the day after Christmas is typically one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

Stores, which don't typically talk about their plans for sales and other promotions during the season, are known for offering discounts of up to 70 percent after the holiday. This year, they're hoping to lure more bargain hunters who held off on shopping because they wanted to get the best deals of the season.

Still, a powerful winter storm, which pounded the nation's midsection on Wednesday and is heading toward the Northeast, could hurt post-Christmas shopping. The storm is bringing high winds and heavy snow that disrupted holiday travel, knocked out power to thousands of homes and were blamed in at least six deaths.

The Macy's location in Herald Square in New York was bustling with shoppers on Wednesday. There were a variety of deals throughout the store: candy dispensers for 70 percent off, various men's clothes were "buy one get one free," belts for 50 percent off, a bin of ties for $9.99.

Ulises Guzman, 30, a social worker, was shopping in the store. He said he waited to shop until the final days before Christmas, knowing that the deals would get better as stores got more desperate. He said he was expecting discounts of at least 50 percent.



Nation

Storm's high winds, snow, sleet lash Northeast

By DAN SEWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A powerful winter storm system that pounded the nation's midsection, wrecking holiday travel plans and dumping a record snowfall in Arkansas, began lashing the Northeast on Wednesday with high winds, snow and sleet.

The storm, which knocked out power to thousands of homes, mainly in Arkansas, was blamed in at least six deaths.

Hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed, scores of motorists got stuck on icy roads or slid into drifts and blizzard warnings were issued amid snowy gusts of 30 mph that blanketed roads and windshields, at times causing whiteout conditions.

"The way I've been describing it is as a low-end blizzard, but that's sort of like saying a small Tyrannosaurus rex," said John Kwiatkowski, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

The system, which spawned Gulf Coast region tornadoes on Christmas Day, pushed through the Upper Ohio Valley and headed into the Northeast Wednesday night. High winds, snow and sleet slickened roads in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Forecasts called for 12 to 18 inches of snow inland from western New York to Maine into Thursday.

The National Weather Service said Wednesday night that spotters had reported up to a foot of snow in some Pennsylvania counties. Forecasters predicted 10 to 12 inches of snow in western and central Massachusetts.

The system was expected to taper off into a mix of rain and snow closer to the coast, where little or no accumulation was expected in such cities as Philadelphia, Boston and New York.

The storm left freezing temperatures in its aftermath, and forecasters also said parts of the Southeast from Virginia to Florida would see severe thunderstorms.

Schools on break and workers taking holiday vacations meant that many people could avoid messy commutes, but those who had to travel were implored to avoid it. Snow was blamed for scores of vehicle accidents as far east as Maryland, and about two dozen counties in Indiana and Ohio issued snow emergency travel alerts, urging people to go out on the roads only if necessary.

About 40 vehicles got bogged down trying to make it up a slick hill in central Indiana, and four state snowplows slid off roads as snow fell at the rate of 3 inches an hour in some places.

Two passengers in a car on a sleet-slickened Arkansas highway were killed Wednesday in a head-on collision, and two people, including a 76-year-old Milwaukee woman, were killed Tuesday on Oklahoma highways. Deaths from wind-toppled trees were reported in Texas and Louisiana.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 NY firefighters who survived gun ambush thankful

Two firefighters wounded by a gunman who set his upstate New York house ablaze and killed two of their colleagues in an ambush with weapons he wasn't allowed to own were on the mend Wednesday and said they were thankful for the support they've received. Investigators, meanwhile, traced the gunman's weapons and tried to confirm a body found in his destroyed house was his sister's. West Webster volunteer firefighters Joseph Hofstetter and Theodore Scardino, who had been in guarded condition, were being upgraded to satisfactory condition on Wednesday at Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital, which released a statement from them saying they were "humbled and a bit overwhelmed by the outpouring of well wishes for us and our families." *(AP)*

Spokesman: George H.W. Bush in intensive care

HOUSTON (AP)—Former President George H.W. Bush has been admitted to the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital "following a series of setbacks including a persistent fever," but he is alert and talking to medical staff, his spokesman said Wednesday. Jim McGrath, Bush's spokesman in Houston, said in a brief email that Bush was admitted to the ICU at Methodist Hospital on Sunday. He said doctors are cautiously optimistic about his treatment and that the former president "remains in guarded condition." No other details were released about his medical condition, but McGrath said Bush is surrounded by family. The 88-year-old has been hospitalized since Nov. 23, when he was admitted for a lingering cough related to bronchitis after having been in and out of the hospital for complications related to the illness.

Police union seeks more help for Newtown officers

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Some of the police officers who responded to the school shooting in Newtown are so traumatized they haven't been working, but they have to use sick time and could soon be at risk of going without a paycheck, a union official said Wednesday.

The union, Council 15 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, is seeking more generous assistance in talks with the town's insurer. It is also reaching out to lawmakers and the governor's office with proposals to modify state law and expand workers' compensation benefits for officers who witness horrific crime scenes.

"The insurer for the town has taken a position that these officers are entitled to only what the statute allows. Unfortunately for these officers, the statute doesn't allow any benefits," said Eric Brown, an attorney for the union, which represents nearly 4,000 officers around Connecticut.

A gunman shot his way into Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14 and slaughtered 20 first-graders and six educators. The gunman, who had also killed his mother that morning, committed suicide as police arrived.

Brown said that the number of officers "critically affected" by the tragedy is below 15 and that a small number of them are not currently working.

A spokesman for Newtown police, Lt. George Sinko, said the officers are generally holding up well.

"A couple of them are taking it harder than some of the other ones," he said. "The things that the officers had to experience underscores the need to support them in every way possible."

Officials with the town's insurer, the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Authorities say the victims were shot with a high-powered, military-style rifle loaded with ammunition designed to inflict maximum damage. All the victims had been shot at least twice, the medical examiner said, and as many as 11 times. Two victims were pronounced dead at a hospital, while all others died in the school.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW13-IFB-001

RENOVATION OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OFFICES, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation of the Health Information Technology Program Offices, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 14, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permamnent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if perference is claimed.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on January 03, 2013, 1:30 p.m. local time at the CHC Gift Shop at Old CHC Building. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 08, 2013 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW13-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 17, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 17, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 17, 2013 and must be received no later than January 28, 2013 Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, January 29, 2013 However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on January 17, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, in certified check, Cashier's Check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit under penalty of perjury:

a)A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b)A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at two hundred dollars (US$200.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

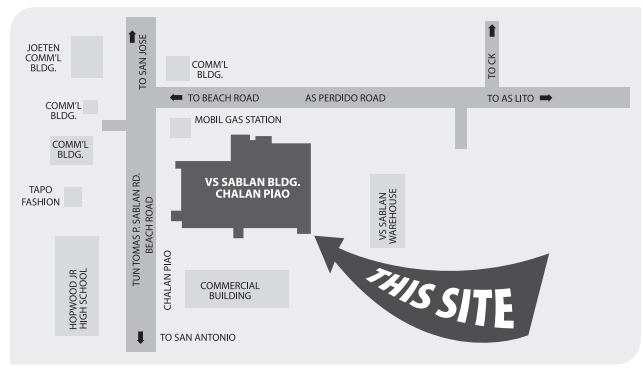
All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO, Commonwealth Health Center Corporation

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Asia

New Japan PM: Saving economic crisis top mission

TOKYO (AP)—Shinzo Abe took office as Japan's seventh prime minister in six years Wednesday and vowed to overcome the deep-rooted economic and diplomatic crises facing his country.

Abe was elected as Japan's leader hours earlier Wednesday, bringing back to power the conservative, pro-business Liberal Democratic Party that governed for most of the post-World War II era. It replaces the liberal-leaning government of the Democratic Party of Japan that lasted three years.

"A strong economy is the source of energy for Japan. Without regaining a strong economy, there is no future for Japan," Abe told his first news conference after becoming prime minister for the second time.

Calling his administration a "crisis breakthrough Cabinet," Abe promised to launch bold economic measures to pull Japan out of deflation. He also vowed to step up an alliance with the United States to stabilize Japan's diplomacy shaken by increasing territorial threats from its neighbors.

Abe, whose nationalist positions have in the past angered Japan's neighbors, was also prime minister in 2006-2007 before resigning for health reasons that he says are no longer an issue.

The outspoken and often hawkish leader has promised to restore growth to an economy that has been struggling for 20 years. His administration also faces souring relations with China and a complex debate over whether resource-poor Japan should wean itself off nuclear energy after last year's earthquake and tsunami caused a meltdown at an atomic power plant.

On top of that, he will have to win over a public that gave his party a lukewarm mandate in elections on Dec. 16, along with keeping at bay a still-powerful opposition in parliament. Though his party and its Buddhist-backed coalition partner is the biggest bloc in the more influential lower house, Abe actually came up short in the first round of voting in the upper house, then won in a runoff.

Capitalizing on voter discontent with the Democratic Party of Japan, Abe has vowed to shore up the economy, deal with a swelling national debt and come up with a fresh recovery plan following last year's tsunami disaster, which set off the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl.

India gang-rape victim in Singapore for treatment

SINGAPORE (AP)—A young woman who was gang-raped and assaulted on a moving bus in the Indian capital was flown Thursday to a Singapore hospital for treatment of severe internal injuries that could last several weeks, officials said.

The 23-year-old student, who is in critical condition, arrived in Singapore on an air ambulance and was admitted to the Mount Elizabeth hospital, renowned for multi-organ transplant facilities.

The hospital said in a statement that she was admitted to the intensive care unit "in an extremely critical condition." It said "she is being examined and the hospital is working with the Indian High Commission (embassy)."

The Dec. 16 rape of the woman and her brutal beating triggered widespread protests in New Delhi and other parts of the country and calls for the death penalty for the perpetrators of rape. It is punishable by up to life in prison.

All six suspects in the case have been arrested.

The rape has highlighted the extensive harassment that Indian women face daily in cities and towns, ranging from unwanted hands being placed on them to being blamed for causing the sexual violence. Even rape victims rarely come forward to complain because of the social stigma. Many women say they have structured their entire lives around protecting themselves and their children, and restricting their movements to avoid being molested.

In a written statement, the Indian High Commission, or embassy, said it has received "many offers to help" the woman, who is "receiving full medical attention." Her family is also being provided all assistance" by the embassy, it said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Storm leaves 4 dead in central Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A late season storm has left at least four people dead in separate incidents in the central Philippines but has spared a southern region that was devastated by a typhoon that killed more than 1,000 people weeks earlier. The national disaster agency said in a report Thursday that three people died when a tree fell on their house in Eastern Samar province, where Tropical Storm Wukong made landfall on Christmas Day. Another person was killed in a landslide in Iloilo province. Officials say heavy rain on mountains surrounding Kalibo, the capital of Aklan province on Panay Island, caused a river running through the city to overflow and triggered a flashflood late Wednesday. There were no casualties.

2 die, 16K evacuated in eastern Malaysia floods

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Flooding sparked by heavy seasonal rains has killed two people and forced nearly 16,000 to flee their homes on Malaysia's east coast. Authorities have evacuated residents of numerous villages and towns to higher ground in three Malaysian states that are prone to torrential rains between November and February. Flood monitoring centers said 15,993 people were living in schools, community halls and other relief centers Thursday. Two casualties have been reported since waters submerged low-lying neighborhoods early this week. Malaysian media identified them as a woman who drowned while fishing near a flood-swollen river and a 15-year-old boy swept away by strong currents after he slipped from a boat.

British kickboxer indicted in Thailand for murder

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai prosecutors have indicted a British kickboxer on murder charges in connection with the 2010 stabbing of a former U.S. Marine on a resort island. A Phuket court indicted Lee Aldhouse on Wednesday. He is accused of stabbing to death ex-Marine Dashawn Longfellow after being beaten by the American during a brawl at a Phuket bar. Aldhouse was a semi-professional kickboxer who fought under the nickname "Pitbull." He had been living on-and-off in Phuket, where Longfellow was also studying the sport. Aldhouse was extradited to Thailand earlier this month in the first case of extradition of a criminal suspect from England to Thailand.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW13-IFB-002

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the ***Construction of Coastal Road Improvement, Sadog Tasi, Saipan,*** Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 28, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars ($150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a ***Pre-bid Conference*** for this project on January 08, 2013 at 09:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Coastal Drive, Sadog Tasi Area, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 16, 2013 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW13-IFB-002".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January, 22, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 22, 2013, and must be received no later than January 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, February 04, 2012, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 25, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **(US $100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B.CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-004

BEACH ROAD/TUN SEGUNDO TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Beach Road/Tun Segundo Traffic Signal System, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **December 21, 2012** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a ***Mandatory*** **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **January 9, 2013**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 23, 2013** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-004".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **January 29, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **January 29, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 29, 2013** and must be received no later than **February 7, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **February 12, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **February 1, 2013**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Ten (210)** working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

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Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.96 LIMIT 6

Black Label $1.78 LIMIT 6

Carnation Evap $1.18 U.S. $0.98 PHIL.

Royal Salad Macaroni 2 FOR $5.00 $2.98 1KG

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn $0.88 306G

Ace Diamond Tuna & Coco Tuna $1.48 EACH

Morton Salt $0.88

Kimchi Base $5.98 450G

Folgers Coffee $11.98 36OZ.

Argo Corn Starch $0.98

Golden State Vinegar $3.98 1GAL

Ichiban $10.88 /BOX

Potato $0.78 /LB.

Onion $0.58 /LB.

Kikkoman LIMIT 2 $4.28 1.6L

Zesto Box $1.98

Saipan Ice Water 350ML $5.98 CASE

| BEVERAGES |

Coke / Pepsi WARM only $14.98

San Miguel in Can $22.98 CASE

Milwaukee Beer in Can $17.99 CASE

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Colgate Regular $1.68 100ml $2.58 150ml

Palmolive Shampoo & Conditioner $1.78 EACH

Gain Liquid $6.98 50 OZ.

Surf Detergent (Aloha Splash / Sparkling Ocean) $4.98 32 LOADS

Purex $4.98

Hite Beer Bottle $18.95 CASE

Tide Laundry Soap Powder $0.98 508 G. $1.98 1.36 KG. $3.98 2.28 KG.

Joy Dish. $6.98 90 OZ.

Clorox $3.98 99 oz.

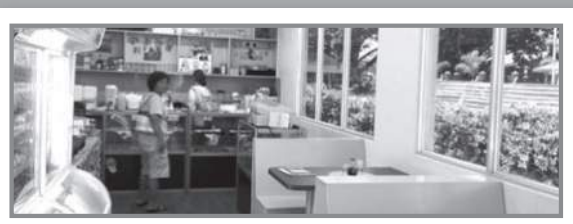
Bounty Paper Towel 5 Rolls $18.98

Diamond Foil $7.98 200 sq.ft.

Stone Barn Wine $7.50 Bottle

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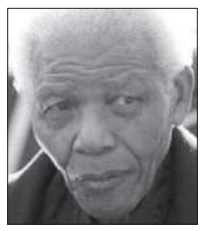
Mandela released from the hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Former South African President Nelson Mandela was released Wednesday from the hospital after being treated for a lung infection and having gallstones removed, a government spokesman said.

The 94-year-old anti-apartheid icon will continue to receive medical care at home.

Mandela had been in the hospital since Dec. 8. In recent days, officials have said he was improving and in good spirits, but doctors have taken extraordinary care with his health because of his age.

Mandela was released Wednesday evening and will receive "home-based high care" at his residence in the Johannesburg neighborhood of Houghton until he fully recovers, said presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj.


Mandela

"We thank the public and the media for the good wishes and for according Madiba and the family the necessary privacy," said Maharaj in a statement, using Mandela's clan name, a term of affection. The statement requested that Mandela's privacy continue to be respected "in order to allow for the best possible conditions for full recovery."

David Phetoe, a resident of the Johannesburg township of Soweto, reacted with joy when he heard that Mandela was no longer in a hospital.

"It's not always the case, when people offer great expectations, that those expectations are fulfilled," he said. "In this case, we say in the same tone, in the Christmas mood and in the Christmas season, let him stick around for a while!"

Mandela is revered around the world as a symbol of sacrifice and reconciliation, his legacy forged in the fight against apartheid, the system of white minority rule that imprisoned him for 27 years.

The Nobel laureate served one five-year term as president after South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. Although the country today struggles with poverty and inequality, Mandela is widely credited with helping to avert race-driven chaos as South Africa emerged from apartheid.

Egypt's Morsi: Constitution dawn of new republic

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Islamist president proclaimed the country's newly adopted constitution as the dawning of a "new republic" in a television address Wednesday, calling on the opposition to join a dialogue with him after a month of violent turmoil and focus on repairing a damaged economy.

Mohammed Morsi sought to present the Islamist-drafter charter as the turning of a historic page for Egypt, but his speech did little to ease the suspicions of those who fear he and his Muslim Brotherhood are entrenching their power. He offered no concrete gestures to an opposition that has so far rejected his dialogue and vowed to fight the constitution.

Instead, with a triumphalist tone, he presented the constitution, which was approved by nearly 64 percent of voters in a referendum that ended last weekend, as creating a democracy with balanced powers between branches of government and political freedoms.

"We don't want to return to an era of one opinion and fake, manufactured majorities. The maturity and consciousness (of voters) heralds that Egypt has set on a path of democracy with no return," Morsi said. "Regardless of the results, for the sake of building the nation, efforts must unite. There is no alternative to a dialogue that is now a necessity."

The opposition says the constitution allows a dictatorship of the majority—which Islamists have won with repeated election victories the past two years. It says the charter's provisions for greater implementation of Islamic law, or Shariah, would allow Islamists who hold the presidency and overwhelmingly dominate the temporary legislature to restrict civil rights and limit the freedoms of minorities and women.

Opponents also say the low turnout in the referendum, just under 33 percent, undermines the document's legitimacy.

The main opposition National Salvation Front said it would study Morsi's speech to see if his call for dialogue is serious. But it dismissed a "national dialogue" body that he launched before the results emerged as "farcical and simply theater." The dialogue is mainly between Morsi and other Islamists.

Syrian minister leaves Beirut for fear of arrest

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's wounded interior minister cut short his treatment at a Beirut hospital Wednesday and returned home for fear of being arrested by Lebanese authorities, while Syria's chief of military police defected to the opposition, becoming one of the highest-ranking officers to switch sides.

The twin developments reflected the deepening isolation of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, which has suffered a number of setbacks on the battlefield as well.

In the latest challenge, rebels launched a massive attack on a military base in the northern province of Idlib after laying siege to it for weeks.

The defector, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Aziz Jassem al-Shallal, becomes one of the most senior members of Assad's regime to join the opposition during the 21-month-old revolt against his authoritarian rule.

Al-Shallal appeared in a video aired on Arab TV late Tuesday saying that he was casting his lot with "the people's revolution."

He said the military "has become a gang for killing and destruction," and he accused it of "destroying cities and villages and committing massacres against our innocent people who came out to demand freedom."

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohammed al-Shaar, who was wounded in a suicide bombing Dec. 12 in Damascus and was brought to Beirut for treatment a week ago, left the hospital early and flew home to Damascus on a private jet, officials at Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport said.

A top Lebanese security official told The Associated Press that al-Shaar was rushed out of Lebanon after authorities there received information that international arrest warrants could be issued against him because of his role in the deadly crackdown against protesters in Syria.

Over the past week, some Lebanese officials and individuals had also called for al-Shaar's arrest for his role in a bloody 1986 assault in the Lebanese city of Tripoli.

In the 1980s, al-Shaar was a top intelligence official in northern Lebanon when Syrian troops stormed Tripoli and crushed a Sunni Muslim group that supported Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat. Hundreds of people were killed in the battles, and since then, many in northern Lebanon have referred to al-Shaar as "the butcher of Tripoli."

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-0014-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Preventive Maintenance for the Loading Bridges of the International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the loading bridges for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, **November 28, 2012**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the **RFP** shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance for the Loading Bridges.** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2012,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) financial resources (2) price, (3) technical experience, and (4) sufficiency of workers.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, and Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., **December 14, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director's Office at (670)234-5962 or via email at **cpa.admin@pticom.com** at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals: or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA Further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: 11/27/2012

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-056
Tinian Health Center Medical Equipment

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Medical Equipment for the Tinian Health Center.

The project package will be available Thursday, December 20, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the package at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 11, 2013 to Mr. Roy Reyes of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB13-GOV-056".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 24, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time January 24, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 24, 2013 and must be received no later than January 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, February 1, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on January 24, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

German scientists seek to clone perfect Xmas trees

BERLIN (AP)—The hunt for the perfect Christmas tree may soon become a lot easier: just pick a nice clone. That's what German scientists are now working on: They are searching a way to ensure that the sensitive saplings of the popular Nordmann fir species grow into impressive specimens. The fir is native to the Caucasus, but is often cultivated on massive plantations in Germany. Biologist Kurt Zoglauer of Berlin's Humboldt University said Friday 40 percent of trees don't make the cut when they mature after 10 to 14 years. Some are stunted by frost, while others turn out the wrong shade of green. Zoglauer's team therefore hopes to refine a method to clone particularly hardy and beautiful trees by 2016. The project is supported by a German government grant.

So. Calif. couple unlawfully wedded for 48 years

REDLANDS, Calif. (AP)—After spending nearly a half-century as husband and wife, Bob and Norma Clark are finally married. The couple from Redlands, an inland California city halfway between Los Angeles and Palm Springs, celebrated their 48th anniversary in August, and in November they were getting their end-of-life documents in order and sought a copy of their marriage license for Social Security purposes. The Clarks, who met in college, took their vows at a church south of San Francisco in August 1964, shortly after Bob had served in the Army during the Cuban Missile Crisis. But when clerks at the Hall of Records in San Mateo County tried to pull the license last month, they came up empty. "They went back to the year 1956, but no record of our marriage could be found," Bob Clark told the Redlands Daily Facts. The church where they had married still had a record of the ceremony so they knew they hadn't imagined it, and several of the couple's family members and friends who had been wedding guests were about to come to town for Thanksgiving. On Nov. 21 they made their marriage legitimate, filing their paperwork and obtaining their license at the San Bernardino County Hall of Records, with the maid of honor and a junior usher from the original wedding serving as witnesses. Bob Clark brought flowers for Norma, and at the urging of family and friends kissed the bride to seal the deal. "I got her a nice bouquet, and it was just a hoot," he said.

Minn. soda shop rebuked for stocking candy smokes

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Owners of an old-school soda shop in St. Paul, Minn., are being warned to kick the habit and stop stocking novelty candy cigarettes. City inspectors threatened a misdemeanor citation and $500 fine if Lynden's soda fountain is caught selling the fake smokes again. The Star Tribune reported Wednesday that the offering violated an ordinance barring the sale of candy smokes and cartoon character lighters. A city spokesman says the warning came after inspectors received and looked into a complaint about the presence of the tobacco-themed products. The ordinance was enacted to discourage youngsters from picking up a real smoking habit. Shop owner Tobi Lynden says the white candy sticks with the red tips were her best-selling candy item but she pulled them to avoid running afoul of the ordinance.

Denver sirens are just a test, not doomsday signal

DENVER (AP)—Officials in Denver want people to know this is only a test. The city is testing new outdoor warning sirens on Friday, and they're well aware of all the talk about the Mayan calendar and time running out for the world's population. In announcing the drill, officials said they wanted to make sure that people knew that the wailing sirens didn't mean it was the end of the world. A chorus of books and movies has sought to link the Mayan calendar to rumors of impending disasters ranging from black holes and solar storms to a change in the Earth's magnetic field. Scientists say predictions of an impending apocalypse are a bunch of hogwash.

$500 million in checks left at Jerusalem holy site

JERUSALEM (AP)—Worshippers usually leave notes to the Almighty at one of Judaism's holiest sites. But half a billion dollars? Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, who oversees Jerusalem's Western Wall, said a worshipper found an envelope at the site Wednesday with 507 checks in the amount of about $1 million each. They were not addressed to anyone, and it's doubtful they can be cashed. Rabinovitch said most are Nigerian. Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said some were from the United States, Europe and Asia. Rabinovitch says he has found similar checks in Western Wall charity boxes before, but they all bounced. He says most of them were written by people from Africa. The rabbi says he thinks the check writers "wanted to give all they had to the Creator of the universe."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-009

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) TRAFFIC MESSAGE TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 26, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Lolida Ezra Jimmy
P.O. Box 7803 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 234-3306

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF LOLIDA EZRA JIMMY, AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: O.D.J. (d.o.b 10/17/2002) and D.R.J. (d.o.b. 11/14/2006), Minor Children By LOLIDA EZRA JIMMY, Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0565 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Lolida Ezra Jimmy, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 10th day of January, 2013 at 10:30am or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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This is to inform all property owners and landlords registered with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) of an opportunity to advertise rental units at our offices to applicants/participants under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. Approved units to be advertised will be posted in the lobby of our offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. For further information, please visit our offices and pick up an information packet from the receptionist.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, **vs.** **EUGENE R. CLOTHIER and MONA M.T. CLOTHIER** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0142B** **NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR TRACT 22089-2**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Eugene R. and Mona M.T. Clothier in the following described, real property situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction.

Tract 22089-2 (Part of Tract 22089, AH 238-77), containing an area of 29, 092 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3005/89, the original of which was recorded 17 Jan 89 as Document No. 89-0164 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 11, 2013, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is stuck off, without at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten (10%) percent of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Eugene R. and Mona M.T. Clothier in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 13th day of December 2012.

/s/ANICETO T. OGUMORO, Acting Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-013

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) SPEED MONITORING/ANALYSIS TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
CTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-012(A)(B)

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) LTI ULTRA LYTE 200 LASER AND THREE (3) TRAFFIC CRASH RECREATION SOFTWARE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-011

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) OCCUPANT PROTECTION/CHILD RESTRAINT CHECKPOINT TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-010

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) DUI CHECKPOINT TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Science & Technology

REVIEW

Making Facebook a warmer, smaller space

By TALI ARBEL
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman I haven't spoken to in six years is pregnant with her second son. Another college acquaintance reads the Bible a lot. A high school classmate likes to rant about politics. A college dormmate thinks he works too much.

On Facebook, I'm connected to a lot of people who are not my friends. Over the years, as my Facebook friend list grows, it's made me increasingly uncomfortable that I seem to know so much about people that I don't actually know.

So as the new year approached, I decided to review my Facebook life. I took a four-week break—a "Facebook Fast"—from the world's biggest online social network. The break this fall spanned the presidential campaign and election, Superstorm Sandy, fighting in the Middle East and my college's homecoming weekend—all events I cared about. These were all reasons for me to crave Facebook as a way to check the zeitgeist.

What did I learn? Sure, there are sleazy and annoying aspects to Facebook. It connects us to each other like tabloids connect readers to celebrities, and it compels us to gossip. It often makes us voyeurs accidentally immersed in the intimate lives of people we barely know.

But after eight years on the network, I rely on it for pictures and news of faraway friends and relatives. I can't quit. Like it or not, Facebook is an important part of my life.

Facebook Inc. is in the midst of trying to make its privacy policies more intuitive for users. It has added a little padlock icon at the top right of the website. When you click on it, Facebook walks you through how to change who sees what you post, who can contact you and how to review what others are writing about you.

But if you're trying to curate your Facebook life, there are more steps you need to take. Here are some tips for remaking the network so it's less a tabloid feed of unwanted updates and more a warmer, personal space that better reflects your real-life social circle.

CUT BACK ON TOTAL TIME SPENT

I used to keep Facebook open on my work computer, checking in periodically throughout the day. I relied on the Facebook app on my phone to entertain me whenever I was waiting in line or riding in a taxi. I would also log in at home.

It was overkill. I check Facebook less often now. The goal: Read less and write more.

First, I disabled the app on my phone.

I also enabled email notifications for whenever someone sends me a message, tags me in a photo, or posts on my profile or in one of my groups. If someone's trying to get in touch with me, I still want to know and be able to respond. Because I get the notifications, I don't need to keep Facebook open at work or check on it constantly at home.

Here's how to get those notifications: Click on the wheel icon at the top right corner of Facebook and choose "privacy settings" on the menu that pops up. Then click on "notifications" on the left. Then, you can edit what Facebook sends you over email—as well as via texts and phone alerts.

RESTRICT ACCESS

I hate it when people send me personal messages by broadcasting it on my profile page, or timeline, for everyone to see. I'd rather that person send me an email or a private Facebook message that I alone could see. But many people still insist on posting such messages on my timeline anyway.

To address that, I effectively turned off my timeline. Someone can still post on it, but I've adjusted the settings so that person and I are the only ones who can see that note. I can still publicly share things that I want seen broadly, like a post I wrote promoting my sister's new yoga business. To make these adjustments, choose "privacy settings" under the wheel again. Then click on "timeline and tagging" on the left.

Facebook alerts me when somebody else has attached my name to a post or picture, and I need to approve it before others can see it. The settings for this are found under the same "timeline and tagging" page. Turn on reviews for posts you've been tagged in.

FRIENDS OR FRIENDS"?

My news feed—the stream of friends' links, photos and life comments—was too cluttered with information about people I didn't know anymore. De-friending people seems rude and aggressive to me (although it may be a good idea down the road as decades of friends pile up).

Without severely paring down your friend list, here's how to get Facebook to show you only what you want to see:

■ Determine who shows up more on your news feed. When you're on your timeline page, click on "friends" at the top, near your profile picture, to see a list of all of your friends. Each person has a "friends" button next to his or her picture. To see more of that person's posts, choose "close friends." To see less, click "acquaintances." Friends won't know that you've sorted them this way. You can also do this by hovering over the name of the person posting on your timeline. A box will pop up with the person's profile picture and the same "friends" button.

■ To tweak what kind of updates you get from each friend, click "settings" under the same "friends" button. You can choose to see only updates on major life events and pictures, for example, while ignoring updates about their comments and likes on other people's posts.

■ If specific posts in your news feed annoy you, you can hide them. Hover over the top right corner of the post, click on the box that pops up, and choose "hide..." That will remove the post from your news feed, although you will still get future updates from that person.

■ You can also cut off all updates from a friend. After hiding a specific post in your timeline by that person, click "change what updates you get from..." Under the drop-down menu that comes up, click "unsubscribe." You can also ignore a person's Facebook activity by unchecking "show in news feed," under the same menu that lets you sort friends into "close friends" and "acquaintances."

Curating your news feed in this manner is burdensome if you have hundreds of connections. But the result is less tabloid magazine, more personal messages and cute pictures from people who are actually your friends.

SMALLER CIRCLES

One of the great benefits of Facebook is that it helps you keep in touch with a handful of people who have a shared interest. Hundreds of Facebook friends don't need to see the intimate interactions I have with a few closer friends. So I created private spheres for smaller circles—smaller than the lists Facebook automatically generates based on your school information, hometown and employer.

I created such a group with three friends—one from England, one from France and one from Los Angeles—I had spent several days with in a small town in Colombia while on vacation. The four of us use that to post silly photos of ourselves from the trip and write each other personal updates. That spares everyone else from having to hear about the next time we're going to see each other.

To set up a group, go to your news feed by clicking on "home" up top. Then click "create group," which is on the left of the page, in the "groups" section. I typed in the three friends to add and chose to make the group "secret," which means only members of the group can see that it even exists. I also get notifications from Facebook whenever anyone posts to the group. You can turn those on from the "notifications" page under the wheel icon.

Life & Style

Durning, king of character actors, dies in NYC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charles Durning grew up in poverty, lost five of his nine siblings to disease, barely lived through D-Day and was taken prisoner at the Battle of the Bulge.

His hard life and wartime trauma provided the basis for a prolific 50-year career as a consummate Oscar-nominated character actor, playing everyone from a Nazi colonel to the pope to Dustin Hoffman's would-be suitor in "Tootsie."

Durning, who died Monday at age 89 in New York, got his start as an usher at a burlesque theater in Buffalo, N.Y. When one of the comedians showed up too drunk to go on, Durning took his place. He would recall years later that he was hooked as soon as he heard the audience laughing.

He told The Associated Press in 2008 that he had no plans to stop working. "They're going to carry me out, if I go," he said.

Durning's longtime agent and friend, Judith Moss, told The Associated Press that he died of natural causes in his home in the borough of Manhattan.

"Not only was Charlie a


Durning

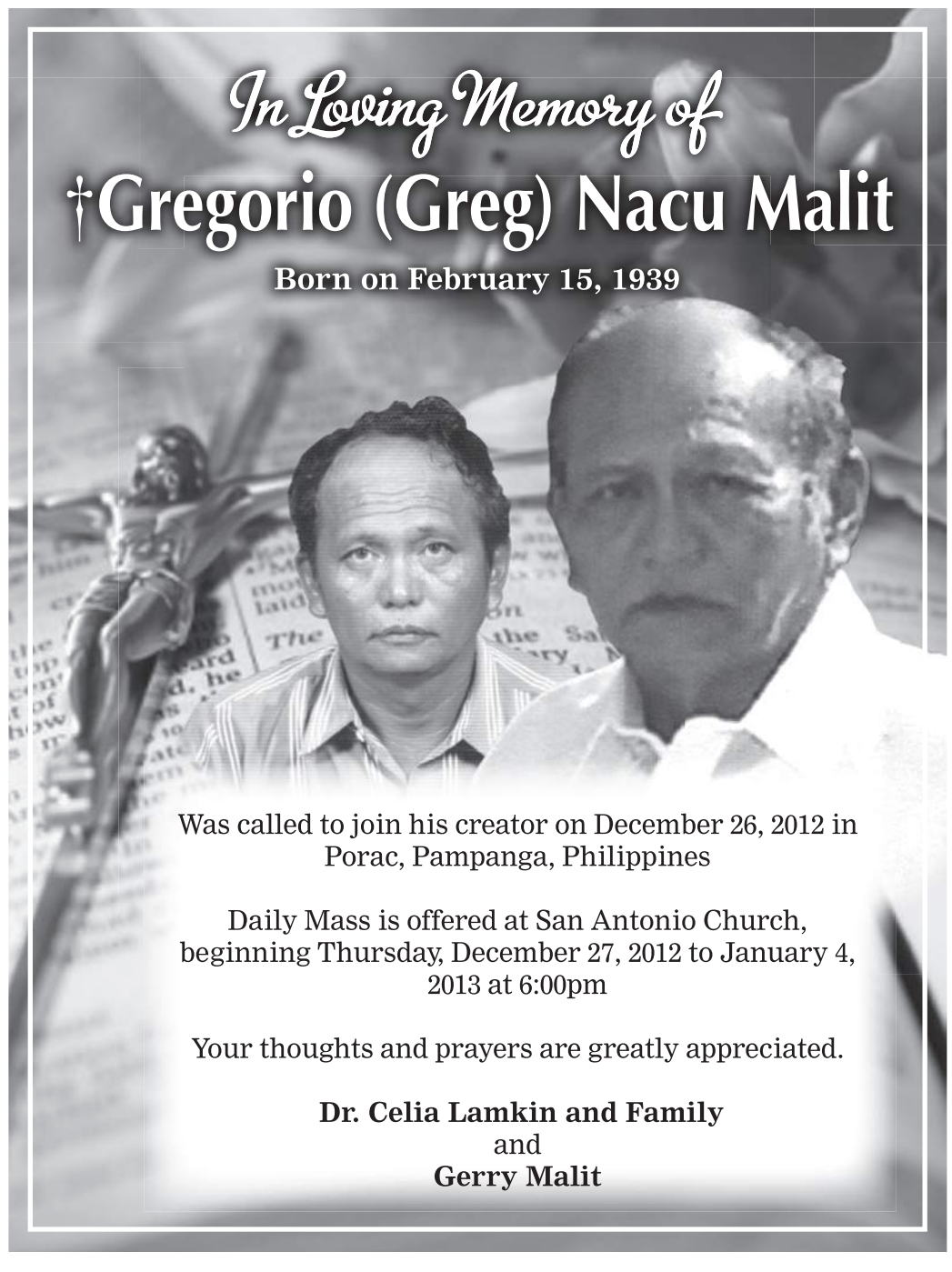
World War II hero but he was also a hero to his family. Charlie loved Christmas and if he could have chosen a time to pass, he would have chosen this day," said a statement from his stepdaughter, Anita Gregory, released Tuesday by Ana Martinez, spokeswoman for the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

"He loved that holiday and played Santa Claus many times in films and TV shows," Gregory said. "Charlie lived the spirit of Christmas each and every day of his life. He taught me to believe that nothing was impossible. He brought joy and a smile to everyone's life."

Although he portrayed everyone from blustery public officials to comic foils to put-upon everymen, Durning may be best remembered by movie audiences for his Oscar-nominated, over-the-top role as a comically corrupt governor in 1982's "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." Many critics marveled that such a heavyset man could be so nimble in the film's showstopping song-and-dance number, not realizing Durning had been a dance instructor early in his career. Indeed, he had met his first wife, Carol, when both worked at a dance studio.

The year after "Best Little Whorehouse," Durning received another Oscar nomination, for his portrayal of a bumbling Nazi officer in Mel Brooks' "To Be or Not to Be." He was also nominated for a Golden Globe as the harried police lieutenant in 1975's "Dog Day Afternoon."

He won a Golden Globe as best supporting TV actor in 1991 for his portrayal of John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald in the TV film "The Kennedys of Massachusetts" and a Tony in 1990 as Big Daddy in the Broadway revival of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."



Marvel's Peter Parker in perilous predicament

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—After 50 years of spinning webs and catching a who's who of criminals, Peter Parker is out of the hero game.

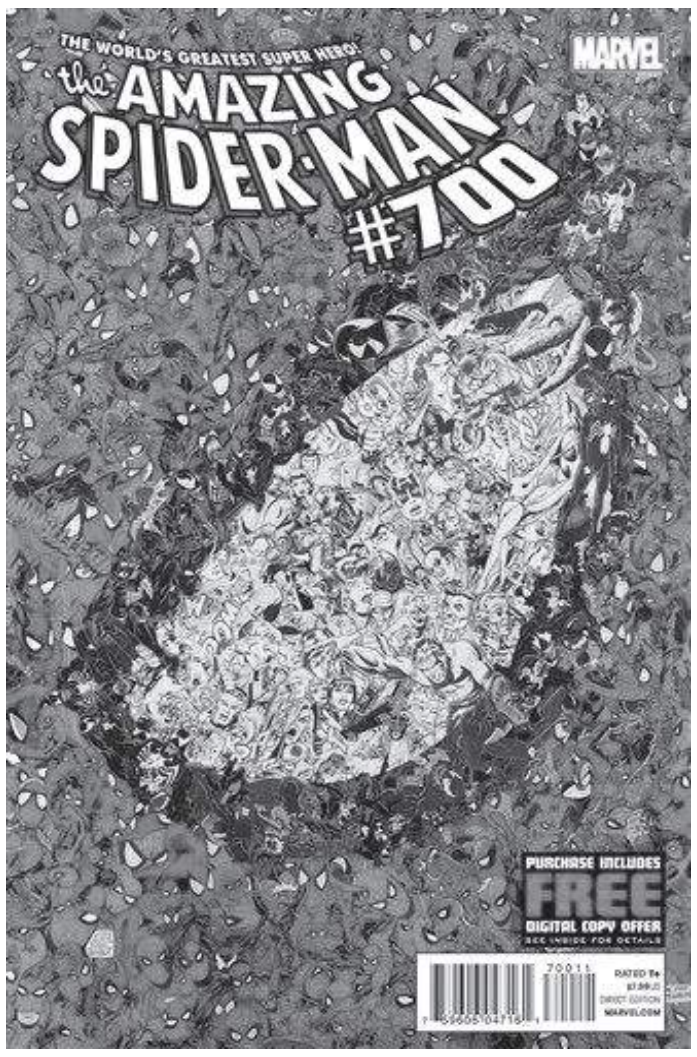
But Spider-Man is still slinging from building to building—reborn, refreshed and revived with a new sense of the old maxim that Ben Parker taught his then-fledgling nephew that "with great power, comes great responsibility."

Writer Dan Slott, who's been penning Spidey adventures for the better part of the last 100 issues for Marvel Entertainment, said the culmination of the story is a new, dramatically different direction for the Steve Ditko and Stan Lee-created hero.

"This is an epic turn," Slott said. "I've been writing Spider-Man for 70-plus issues. Every now and then, you have to shake it up. ... The reason Spider-Man is one of the longest running characters is they always find a way to keep it fresh. Something to shake up the mix."

And in the pages of issue 700, out Wednesday, it's not just shaken up, it's turned head over heels, spun in circles, kicked sky high and cracked wide open.

Parker's mind is trapped in the withered, decaying dying body of his nemesis, Doctor Octopus aka Otto Octavius. Where's Doc Ock? Inside Parker's superpowered shell, learning what life is like for the brilliant researcher who happens to count the Avengers and Fantastic Four as friends and family.



AP

This undated photo provided by Marvel Comics shows the cover of the 700th and final issue in the comic book series "The Amazing Spider-Man," issued Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012.

The two clash mightily in the pages of issue 700, illustrated by Humberto Ramos and Victor Olazaba. But it's Octavius who wins out and Parker is, at least for now, gone for good, but not before one more act of heroism.

Slott said that it's Parker, whose memories envelop Octavius, who shows the villain what it means to be a hero.

"Gone are his days of villainy, but since it's Doc Ock and he has that ego, he's not going to try and just be Spider-man, he's going to try to be the best Spider-Man ever," said Slott.

Editor Stephen Wacker said that while Parker is gone, his permanence remains and his life casts a long shadow.

"His life is still important to the book because it affects everything that Doctor Octopus does as Spider-Man. Seeing a supervillain go through this life is the point—trying to be better than the hero he opposed," Wacker said.

"Doc has sort of inspired by Peter's life. That's what I mean when he talks about the shadow he casts," he said.

The sentiment echoes what Uncle Ben said in the pages of "Amazing Fantasy" No. 15, Slott said.

Editor Stephen Wacker called it a fitting end to the old series, which sets the stage for a new one - "The Superior Spider-Man" early next year - because it brings Peter Parker full circle, from the start of his crime-fighting career to the end.

"In his very first story, his uncle died because of something he did so the book has always been aimed at making Peter's life as difficult as possible," Wacker said. "The book has always worked best when it's about Peter Parker's life, not Spider-Man's."

And with Octavius influenced by Parker's life—from Aunt May to Gwen Stacy to Mary Jane—it will make him a better person, too.

"Because Doctor Octopus knows all of those things and will make decisions on what he saw Peter going through," Wacker said. "In a way, he gets the ultimate victory as he becomes a better hero."

Ticket rush: Film fans hand Hollywood record cash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The big deal for Hollywood is not the record $10.8 billion that studios took in domestically in 2012. It's the fact that the number of tickets sold went up for the first time in three years.

Thanks to inflation, revenue generally rises in Hollywood as admission prices climb each year. The real story is told in tickets, whose sales have been on a general decline for a decade, bottoming out in 2011 at 1.29 billion, their lowest level since 1995.

The industry rebounded this year, with ticket sales projected to rise 5.6 percent to 1.36 billion by Dec. 31, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com. That's still well below the modern peak of 1.6 billion tickets sold in 2002, but in an age of cozy home theater setups and endless entertainment gadgets, studio executives consider it a triumph that they were able to put more butts in cinema seats this year than last.

"It is a victory, ultimately," said Don Harris, head of distribution at Paramount Pictures. "If we deliver the product as an industry that people want, they will want to get out there. Even though you can sit at home and watch something on your large screen in high-def, people want to get out."

Domestic revenue should finish up nearly 6 percent from 2011's $10.2 billion and top Hollywood's previous high of $10.6 billion set in 2009.

The year was led by a pair of superhero sagas, Disney's "The Avengers" with $623 million domestically and $1.5 billion worldwide and the Warner Bros. Batman finale "The Dark Knight Rises" with $448 million domestically and $1.1 billion worldwide. Sony's James Bond adventure "Skyfall" is closing in on the $1 billion mark globally, and the list of action and family-film blockbusters includes "The Hunger Games," "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part Two," "Ice Age: Continental Drift," "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "Brave."

Before television, movies were the biggest thing going, with ticket sales estimated as high as 4 billion a year domestically in the 1930s and `40s.

Movie-going eroded steadily through the 1970s as people stayed home with their small screens. The rise of videotape in the 1980s further cut into business, followed by DVDs in the `90s and big, cheap flat-screen TVs in recent years. Today's video games, mobile phones and other portable devices also offer easy options to tramping out to a movie theater.

It's all been a continual drain on cinema business, and cynics repeatedly predict the eventual demise of movie theaters. Yet Hollywood fights back with new technology of its own, from digital 3-D to booming surround-sound to the clarity of images projected at high-frame rates, which is being tested now with "The Lord of the Rings" prelude "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," shown in select theaters at 48 frames a second, double the standard speed.

For all of the annoyances of theaters—parking, pricy concessions, sitting next to strangers texting on their iPhones—cinemas still offer the biggest and best way to see a movie.

"Every home has a kitchen, but you can't get into a good restaurant on Saturday night," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros. "People want to escape. That's the nature of society. The adult population just is not going to sit home seven days a week, even though they have technology in their home that's certainly an improvement over what it was 10 years ago.

Lion habitat features big cats that worked at MGM

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP)—Dozens of lions that used to entertain tourists at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas now have a new day job.

The Las Vegas Sun reports Keith Evans recently opened his Lion Habitat Ranch in nearby Henderson, Nev., about a year after the Las Vegas Strip casino shuttered its own lion attraction to make way for renovations.

Evans has been keeping big cats at his ranch for more than 40 years. He transported them to the MGM Grand each day for 11 years until the closure.

His new attraction includes glass enclosures and safety barriers to accommodate about 40 lions, including seven cubs that were born in November.

The habitat is open weekends. Admission is $20 for adults, while one child under the age of 12 gets in free for each paying adult.

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Django Unchained
Friday and Saturday 12:45 4:10 7:35 10:00
Mon through Thurs 12:45 4:10 7:35
Cast: Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Waltz
Genre: Western • Rated R
Synopsis
Quentin Tarantino heads to western territory with Django Unchained, one part homage to Italian spaghetti westerns and the other, a spin on race relations in the South.

Parental Guidance
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:55
Mon through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Cast: Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Old school grandfather Artie (Billy Crystal), who is accustomed to calling the shots, meets his match when he and his eager-to-please wife Diane (Bette Midler) agree to babysit their three grandkids when their type-A helicopter parents (Marisa Tomei, Tom Everett Scott) go away for work. But when 21st century problems collide with Artie and Diane's old school methods of tough rules, lots of love and old-fashioned games, it's learning to bend – and not holding your ground – that binds a family together.

Jack Reacher
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:45
Mon through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Cast: Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall
Genre: Thriller • Rated PG 13

This Is 40
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:15
Mon through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cast: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, Jason Segel, Megan Fox
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Monsters Inc. 3D
Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:50
Mon through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs
Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G

The Guilt Trip
Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:15 7:20 9:40
Mon through Thurs 1:20 4:15 7:20
Cast: Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand, Kathy Najimy
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D
Friday and Saturday 12:55 7:45
Mon through Thurs 12:55 7:45
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D
Friday and Saturday 4:20 10:10
Mon through Thurs 4:20
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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AP
In this June 28, 2011 file photo, actor Patrick Dempsey attends the "Transformers: Dark Of The Moon"' premiere in Times Square in New York.

Patrick Dempsey brews up coffee shop purchase

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Patrick Dempsey says he wants to rescue a coffee house chain and more than 500 jobs.

The "Grey's Anatomy" star said Wednesday he's leading a group attempting to buy Tully's Coffee. The Seattle-based company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October.

Dempsey said he's excited about the chance to help hundreds of workers and give back to Seattle.

The actor has a strong TV tie to the city: He plays Dr. Derek Shepherd on "Grey's Anatomy," the ABC drama set at fictional Seattle Grace Hospital.

Tully's has 47 company-run stores in Washington and California, as well as five franchised stores and 58 licensed locations in the U.S.

Any sale would have to be approved by a judge. A bankruptcy court hearing is set for Jan. 11 in Seattle.

Serpico: Pacino played me better than I did

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City police whistleblower Frank Serpico says Al Pacino played him better than he did himself.

Pacino played the detective who exposed widespread police corruption in the 1973 movie "Serpico." The Daily News interviewed the real-life Serpico in Ghent, in New York's Hudson Valley, for a story published Sunday.


Pacino

The 76-year-old retiree spoke weeks after the death of fellow whistleblowing ex-detective David Durk.

Serpico smiled as an interviewer noted he is ranked No. 41, just behind Lassie, on the American Film Institute's list of movie heroes. He says that's "good company."

The newspaper says Serpico keeps busy trying to finish a book and taking solitary walks.

Serpico and Durk's efforts resulted in front-page newspaper stories and a city panel that recommended reforms to prevent police corruption.

DC police investigating 'Meet the Press' incident

WASHINGTON (AP)—District of Columbia police say they are investigating an incident in which NBC News journalist David Gregory displayed what he described as a high-capacity ammunition magazine on "Meet the Press."

Gun laws in the nation's capital generally restrict the possession of high-capacity magazines, regardless of whether the device is attached to a firearm. Gregory held up the magazine as a prop for Sunday's segment, apparently to make a point during an interview, even though D.C. police say NBC had already been advised not to use it in the show.

"NBC contacted (the Metropolitan Police Department) inquiring if they could utilize a high capacity magazine for their segment. NBC was informed that possession of a high capacity magazine is not permissible and their request was denied. This matter is currently being investigated," police spokeswoman Gwendolyn Crump said in a written statement. She declined to comment further.

While interviewing National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre for Sunday's program, Gregory held up an object that he said was a magazine that could hold 30 rounds.

"Here is a magazine for ammunition that carries 30 bullets. Now, isn't it possible that if we got rid of these, if we replaced them and said, `Well, you can only have a magazine that carries five bullets or ten bullets,' isn't it just possible that we could reduce the carnage in a situation like Newtown?"' Gregory asked, referring to the December 14 shooting in which a gunman massacred 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

LaPierre replied: "I don't believe that's going to make one difference. There are so many different ways to evade that even if you had that" ban.

It was not clear how or where Gregory obtained the magazine, and an NBC News spokeswoman declined to comment Wednesday.

"Meet the Press" is generally taped in Washington.

Lehane: I'll name character after who finds my dog

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP)—Author Dennis Lehane is offering an unusual reward for the person who finds his family's beloved missing beagle.

Lehane says he'll name a character in his next book after whoever finds Tessa, who disappeared from the family's home in Brookline, Mass., this week.

He says on his Facebook page that Tessa jumped a fence at the home, and even though she has been micro-chipped, she was not wearing her tags.

Lehane says Tessa is "smart, fast, and immeasurably sweet."

Lehane wrote "Mystic River," "Gone Baby Gone," "Shutter Island" and other books.

UK watchdog to probe BBC payoffs

LONDON (AP)—Britain's public spending watchdog says it will investigate severance packages at the BBC in the wake of a highly-criticized payout to the broadcaster's former director general.

The probe comes after a group of British lawmakers accused the BBC of being cavalier with taxpayers' money by paying 450,000 pounds ($730,000) in severance to George Entwistle—double the amount he was entitled to—when he quit last month over the BBC's disastrous handling of fallout from the Jimmy Savile sex abuse scandal.

Barry Lester, a spokesman for the National Audit Office, said Wednesday the watchdog had written to the BBC saying it wanted to look at Entwistle's payout and that the broadcaster had responded by asking the NAO to undertake a wider study in 2013 on its severance packages.

Grandmother's photo collage brings back painful memories

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE


Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My daughter was repeatedly date-raped at the age of 16. Her predator threatened to kill her if she ever told, so she kept it to herself until she could get away from him. It was a very scary time in her life, but with the help of counseling she is working through it and moving on with her life.

The problem is, while visiting with my in-laws it was pointed out to us that my mother-in-law had made a collage of pictures and included in it the person who raped my daughter. In all, there are five pictures of him in group settings. When my husband asked her calmly to remove them, she refused. She says it would punish the other grandchildren if she removed the pictures, and it would "ruin her collage."

We have asked her three times, but she refuses to budge. She says WE all need counseling and that the request is completely out of line. Do you think our request was out of line?

APPALLED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR APPALLED: Of course not! Was your mother-in-law aware of what this person had done to her granddaughter when the collage was created? If so, her reaction is bizarre and unbelievably insensitive.

Approach her once more and ask if she would agree to take the collage to a photographer so your daughter's attacker can be digitally edited out of it. If that's not possible, perhaps she would agree to take down the collage when your family visits. However, if the response to that request is also negative, I wouldn't blame you if you went there very rarely, if ever.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What do you say to people when they tell you they will "pray for you" when you're dealing with an illness or other life tragedy if you are a nonbeliever? Statistics say that 34 percent of Americans are nonbelievers, so please address this to the 34 percent who share my feelings of appreciation for the sentiment, but feel like hypocrites for playing along to reciprocate their kindness. I wonder if any of your nonbeliever readers can share how they internally deal with this dilemma.

NONBELIEVER, BUT GRATEFUL

DEAR NONBELIEVER: I'm sure they will, in droves. However, because nonbelievers physically resemble those who ARE believers, and nonbelievers don't usually wear symbols indicating their nonbelief, it's understandable that someone of faith would attempt to offer comfort that way. And most people battling a serious illness welcome a "blast of positivity," whether it is couched in religious terms or not.

When someone offers to pray for you, it's usually because the person cares about you, knows you are sick and feels helpless to offer anything more to help. Accept it for what it is, and say thank you rather than tell the person that what they offered is, in your eyes, worthless. That's called being gracious—regardless of your religious or nonreligious convictions.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband of eight years will not resolve his foot odor problem. We live in a small apartment, and it's humiliating when we have company and half the apartment smells like stinky feet.

He refuses to wear socks, and his solution in winter is to open all the windows and turn on the fan as soon as he returns from work. The "airing out" never completely gets rid of the smell — and I freeze! How can I get him to change?

FED UP IN MANHATTAN

DEAR FED UP: You obviously can't change your husband, but you don't have to risk getting pneumonia, either. Shoe repair shops sell deodorizing products in the form of sprays and powders. Or buy a large container of baking soda, and when your husband removes his shoes, dump a cupful into each one. They next day the smell should be gone.

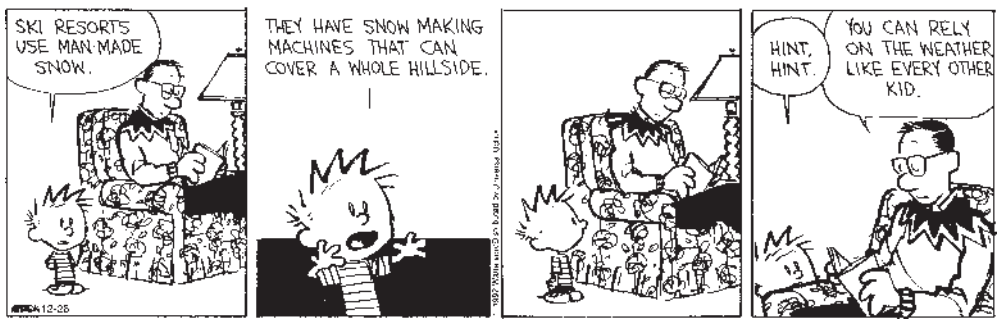
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



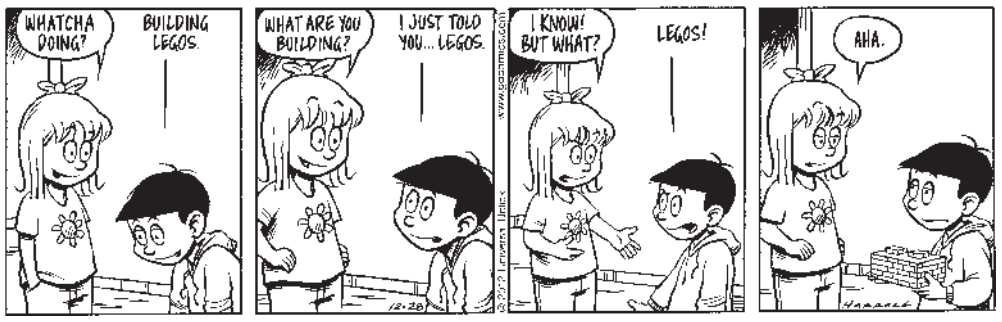
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



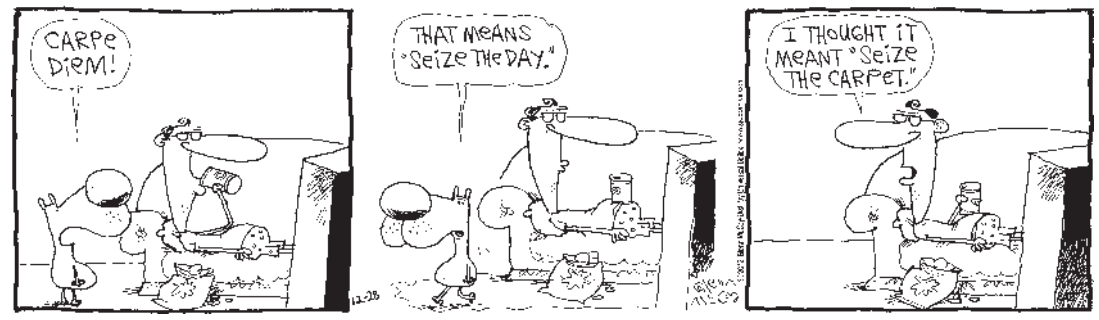
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

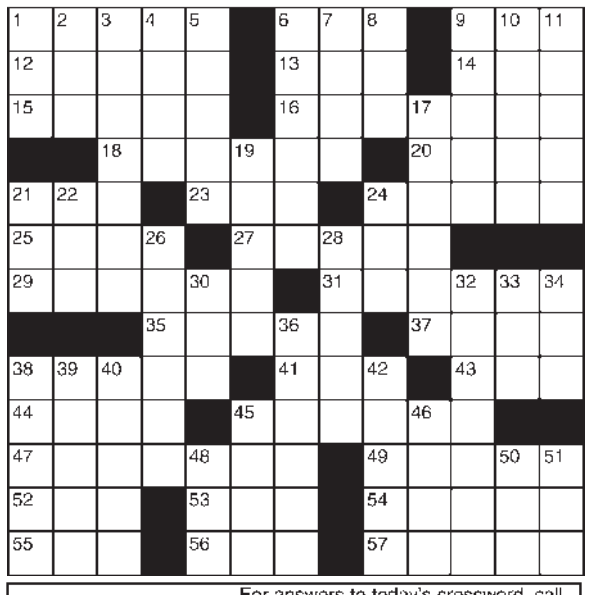
ACROSS
1 Eldrick Woods' alias
6 Cornfield cry
9 Egyptian boy king
12 Egg-shaped
13 Son-gun link
14 Inseparable
15 Talking bird
16 Chinese river
18 Alluring beauty (Var.)
20 Check
21 Deviate off course
23 Automaton, briefly
24 Sirens
25 Baseball stats
27 Get to
29 Lord Wimsey's creator
31 Famed WWII pin-up girl
35 Tourist's query
37 Hotel staffer
38 Barbecue venue
41 Army member?
43 Homer's neighbor
44 Rotated
45 Acerbic
47 "Wheel of Fortune" inspiration
49 Gathered leaves
52 Expert
53 Tramcar contents
54 Bring forth
55 Marry
56 Conclusion
57 Comedian Wanda

DOWN
1 Actor Cruise
2 Wall climber
3 "Coming through!"
4 Listending abbr.
5 Detox and such
6 Road Runner's foe
7 Somewhere out there
8 Pale
9 Clan symbol
10 Decompress a computer file
11 Adolescents
17 Preacher Billy
19 Code name?
21 "Indeed"
22 Coach Parseghian
24 DVR forerunner
26 Betsy Ross' skill
28 Representative
30 Sigma preceder
32 Thailand's capital
33 Recline
34 TV announcer Hall
36 Poured
38 "Nuts!"
39 Quickly
40 Fixed a piano
42 Garage stack
45 Horse house
46 Almost black
48 Larry's pal
50 — out a living
51 Moines lead-in

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	U	R	A	■	P	A	S	■	S	P	O	I
C	R	A	B	■	E	L	L	■	P	E	R	E
N	A	N	A	■	N	E	O	■	I	N	C	A
E	L	I	C	I	T	■	B	O	H	E	A	L
■	■	■	U	S	A	■	■	N	I	L	■	■
A	L	P	S	■	C	A	P	E	T	O	W	N
N	E	E	■	■	L	Y	E	■	■	P	I	A
N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N	■	M	E	T	S
■	■	D	N	A	■	■	A	G	A	■	■	■
C	A	U	C	U	S	■	L	O	I	T	E	R
O	S	L	O	■	T	A	I	■	D	I	M	E
S	T	U	D	■	A	D	Z	■	E	N	I	D
T	I	M	E	■	R	O	E	■	N	E	R	O

Yesterday's answer 12-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sienna Miller, 31; Seth Meyers, 39; Denzel Washington, 58; Maggie Smith, 78.

Happy Birthday: Follow your heart, your emotions and your intuition. Setting your goals high will encourage you to strive to be your best. A forceful approach to the way you present and promote your skills will captivate interest, pushing you to the forefront no matter what you pursue. Don't let personal setbacks stand in the way of your success. Your numbers are 7, 11, 18, 25, 29, 34, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Domestic problems will leave you in doubt. Step out and take part in an event that will lead to new friendships or connecting with someone who has similar interests. Love is on the rise and communication will open up a window of opportunity. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Travel with or to meet with someone special. A closer look at family backgrounds will help you come up with a suitable lifestyle that will fit your future plans. Share your feelings, but accept and compromise what's offered in return. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Reminiscing about someone from your past should be followed up with an email. Making plans to reunite with someone will solve many of your unanswered questions about the past as well as the future. A partnership will undergo change. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick to your game plan regardless of the responsibilities that someone gives you. Being able to handle whatever challenge comes your way will enhance your reputation and give you greater confidence to pursue other dreams in the New Year. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't hide information or feelings that need to be revealed. Speak up and clear the air so you can make the changes that will help you choose a better path. Don't let someone else's responsibilities hold you back. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do your best to help others. You will impress someone you've wanted to work alongside or get to know better. Don't let old rules or negative individuals stand in the way of your happiness. Focus on your future and your contribution. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Diplomacy will help you get your point across without discord. You can explore avenues that will help you make an important decision regarding your professional future or your geographical location. Love is in the stars but personal changes must be implemented. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Live and learn. Travel and research will go hand in hand. A chance to experience a different lifestyle or traditions will help you make a decision regarding your future. Be honest about what you want and how you want to proceed. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put more effort into personal preparation for the upcoming year. A new look image or direction will lead to interesting friendships, partnerships and opportunities. Don't miss out on a romantic adventure. Strive to enjoy more, spend less and simplify your life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Emotions will be heightened and secrets are likely to be divulged. Don't let impulsive actions ruin your plans or your relationship with someone. Talk matters through until you come up with a workable plan. Freedom and equality are a must. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Activity will be a must, along with experimentation, love, romance and self-improvement projects. Extending an invitation or having friends over for a pre-end-of-the-year get-together will lead to a closer bond with the people you care about most. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll have some unusual ideas that can lead to a prosperous endeavor. Check out the possibilities and set aside some time to source what you will need to move forward. Take better care of your health and avoid overindulgent people. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, aggressive and playful as well as strong-minded and outgoing.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9	1	7			8
		3			8			
	6							
5							8	2
6				5				1
4	7							9
							1	
			7			5		
8			6	3	2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	9	7	5	8	3	1	2
2	7	5	1	3	9	6	4	8
8	1	3	6	4	2	9	7	5
4	9	7	5	8	6	1	2	3
3	2	8	9	1	4	5	6	7
5	6	1	3	2	7	4	8	9
9	8	2	4	6	3	7	5	1
7	5	6	8	9	1	2	3	4
1	3	4	2	7	5	8	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PUDDLES — Solution: 8 letters

T	S	J	E	E	A	R	T	H	Y	Y	D	D	U	M
A	E	U	V	F	L	P	S	E	H	C	T	I	D	O
D	L	M	A	I	U	B	T	E	E	R	T	S	E	S
P	D	P	P	L	N	N	B	R	A	I	N	T	N	Q
O	D	I	O	O	G	S	G	A	R	D	E	N	S	U
L	U	N	R	W	R	A	E	I	D	U	P	A	E	I
E	P	G	A	S	A	A	E	C	O	C	E	L	S	T
S	T	T	T	S	V	O	R	R	T	K	E	P	L	O
U	E	E	E	E	E	U	T	Y	U	S	D	R	I	B
R	P	H	R	H	L	T	S	S	A	T	I	O	M	A
F	A	R	M	C	D	D	L	P	D	L	X	Z	Y	T
A	D	I	R	T	N	O	S	A	N	D	S	I	E	H
C	U	R	B	A	O	O	O	T	L	S	S	A	M	I
E	E	S	L	P	P	R	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
H	S	A	L	P	S	S	E	L	R	O	L	O	C	G

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Algae, Bathing, Birds, Children, Colorless, Concrete, Curb, Dabble, Deep, Dense, Dirt, Ditches, Ducks, Earthy, Evaporate, Farm, Fungi, Gardens, Gravel, Insects, Jumping, Lands, Mass, Mixture, Mosquito, Muddy, Outdoors, Patches, Path, Plants, Pond, Pools, Puddles, Rain, Road, Sands, Size, Slay, Slimy, Splash, Step, Street, Surface, Tadpoles, Temporary, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Breeze

Tomás THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 28, 27, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 now $6.95 each plus postage and handling for the first book and $3.95 for each additional book. Send check or money order (no cash or C.O.D.'s) to: Puzzle Collections, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. To order by phone, call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Check us out on the World Wide Web at www.wonderword.com. Contains 40 puzzles. 240 pages. 8½" x 11" size. Jumbo Digest.

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WHATZIT Solution: Undercover agent

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has opening for:

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent).
Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customer's orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers.

One (1) Building Maintenance Repairer
Minimum Qualifications: Two years experience as building maintenance repairer.
Duties: Repairs and maintains the building structures and equipment of the company's commercial and industrial premises, including such duties as pipe fitting, insulating, welding, machining, carpentry, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment, and repairing buildings. Performs routine preventive maintenance to ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, or the physical condition of building does not deteriorate. Inspects, operates, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Assembles, installs, or repairs wiring, electrical or electronic components, pipe systems, plumbing, machinery or equipment. Repairs or replaces defective equipment parts, using hand tools and power tools, and reassembles equipment. Records type and cost of maintenance or repair work.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to wstcospn@pticom.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

HARDT EYE CLINIC is in need of the following:

Registered Nurse/Certified Diabetes Educator (1) – Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Provides individualized diabetes self-management education/training to individuals and groups according to the Scope of Practice, Standards of Practice, and Standards of Professional performance for Diabetes Educators (AADE, 2005). **Licensing or registration and certification for Diabetes Educator are required.**

Certified Optician (1) - Cut, grind, and polish eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other precision optical elements. Assemble and mount lenses into frames or process other optical elements. Includes precision lens polishers or grinders, centerer-edgers, and lens mounters. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications. **Certification and Advance Certification is required.**

Submit application at Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc. dba Hardt Eye Clinic; Diabetes Education Center located next to MegaByte, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road, Saipan. Salary commensurate to credentials and qualification.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT - WINCHELL'S DONUTS

2 vacancies for **Operations Managers.** Wage per hour depends on qualifications. College level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in supervising bakery operations. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

2 vacancies for **Sales Associates.** Wage range $5.55 to $5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in sales. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

6 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers.** Wage range $5.55 to $5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location from 8am to 12 noon or email them to dennys@guam.net

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

DIETITIAN (01)

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Medical Director and must be able to do the following:

- Provides comprehensive nutritional evaluation and counseling services for dialysis patients and staff.
- Provides goal oriented intervention directed toward management of ESRD disease by education of the patient in renal diet and fluid intake management.
- Maintains a close working relationship with the multi-disciplinary ESRD team of dialysis in planning for patients care and attends departmental staff meetings.
- Attends facility in-services, meetings and provides educational programs requested.
- Documents all tasks thoroughly in patient's medical records to maintain dietary records and statistics.
- Establishes yearly goals with Medical Director/Unit manager in relations to specialty program/service.
- Assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of dietary policies and procedures.
- Initiates and/or participates in patient education and treatment programs, such as developing dietary educational materials.
- Participates in professional and other community organizations and activities serving clientele.
- Performs all other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience:
- Holds a baccalaureate or advance degree in food and nutrition or dietetics.
- Has at least one year experience in clinic nutrition.
- Good interpersonal/communication skills.
- Must comply with the law and regulations of the state dietary or nutritional licensing body.

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic, at Chalan Kiya or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com.

YK CORPORATION DBA SUNSHINE LAUNDRY

Industrial Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers (8) $ 5.55/hour

Operate or tend washing or dry-cleaning machines to wash or dry-clean industrial or household articles, such as cloth garments, suede, leather, furs, blankets, draperies, linens, rugs, and carpets. Includes spotters and dyers of these articles.

Tasks:
- Receive and mark articles for laundry or dry cleaning with identifying code numbers or names, using hand / machine markers.
- Start washers, dry cleaners, driers, or extractors, and turn valves or levers to regulate machine processes and the volume of soap, detergent, water, bleach, starch, and other additives.
- Sort and count articles removed from dryers, and fold, wrap, or hang them.
- Examine and sort into lots articles to be cleaned, according to color, fabric, dirt content, and cleaning technique required.
- Load articles into washers or dry-cleaning machines.
- Mix and add detergents, dyes, bleaches, starches, and other solutions and chemicals to clean, color, dry, or stiffen articles.
- Clean machine filters, and lubricate equipment.
- Remove items from washers or dry-cleaning machines.
- Operate extractors and driers, or direct their operation.
- Inspect soiled articles for stains, color imperfections, and to identify items requiring special treatment.

Skills:
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Vacancy Announcement
Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Board of Directors for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce an impending vacancy on its board of directors for a member representing the Island of Rota.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. To be considered, candidates must also be full-time residents of Rota. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs and recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **David J. Attao, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **January 18, 2013**. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Peyton Manning, Peterson make Pro Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)— Peyton Manning and Adrian Peterson want to cap their sensational comebacks with Super Bowl appearances. For now, they can be proud of Pro Bowl spots.

So can Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, one of two rookies chosen Wednesday for the Jan. 27 NFL all-star game.

Manning missed all of the 2011 season with neck and back problems that required several operations. He then signed with Denver as a free agent and has led the Broncos on a 10-game winning streak to take the AFC West.

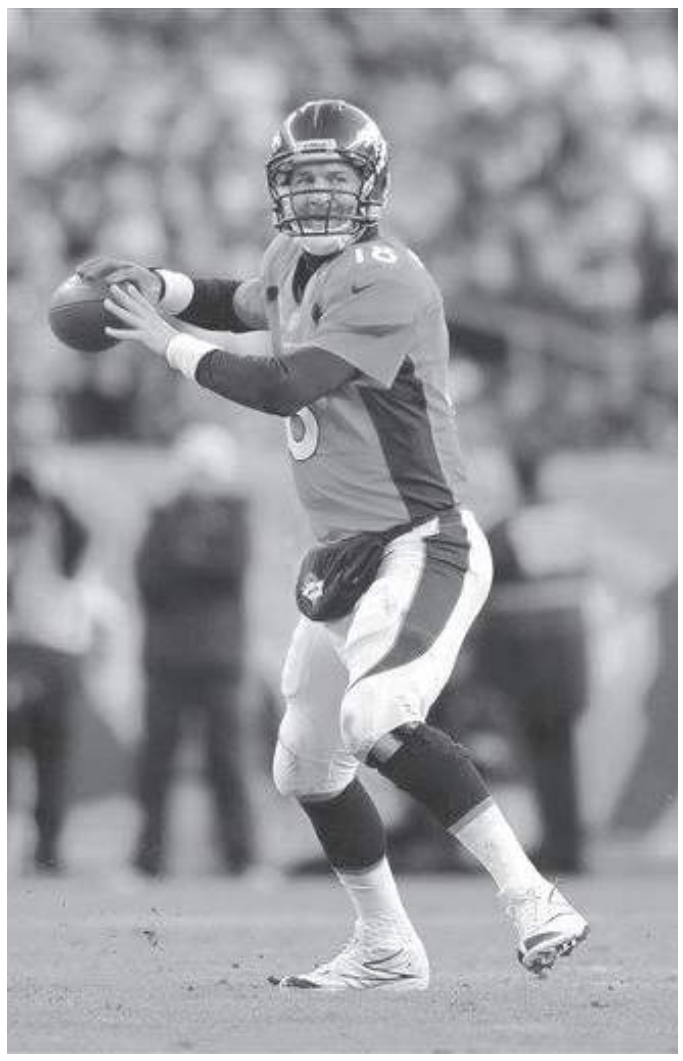
"I know there's great players out there in the NFL, but there's some great players on this team this year that deserve to go," said Manning, whose 12th Pro Bowl is a record for quarterbacks. He ranks fourth in league passing this year, has thrown 34 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Four other Broncos made the AFC roster: DE Elvis Dumervil, linebacker Von Miller, CB Champ Bailey and tackle Ryan Clady. Bailey's 12th appearance is a record for defensive backs.

"My goal has always been to go out and help the team win and play at a high level," Manning added. "Anything that comes along with that, like being honored as a Pro Bowl selection, is very humbling."

Minnesota's Peterson tore up his left knee on Christmas Eve last year, underwent major surgery, then was back for the season opener. He's gone from uncertain to unstoppable, running away with the rushing title with a career-high 1,898 yards and lifting the Vikings toward an NFC wild card.

"Coming into the season after going through the rehab process, I just told myself that I wanted to lead my team to a championship and make sure that I contribute and do my part," Peterson said. "I've been doing it."



AP

In this Dec. 23, 2012, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning sets up to throw a pass against the Cleveland Browns in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Denver. Manning was selected to the Pro Bowl on Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012.

Griffin is one of three rookie QBs who had superb debut seasons, along with Andrew Luck of Indianapolis and Russell Wilson of Seattle. Luck and Wilson weren't voted to the Pro Bowl by players, coaches and fans, although their teams are in the playoffs; Griffin can get to the postseason if Washington beats Dallas on Sunday.

"You can't play down those kind of things," Griffin said. "I've always said my whole football career that you don't play for awards. They just come. You don't say you're going to win the Heisman. You don't say you're going to win MVP. You go out and you prove it on the field, and if everyone feels that way then they'll give you that award."

San Francisco had the most players selected, nine, including six from its second-ranked defense. Houston was next with eight, six on offense.

Kansas City, despite its 2-13 record that is tied with Jacksonville for worst in the league, had five Pro Bowlers, including RB Jamaal Charles, who like Peterson is coming back from a torn ACL.

One other rookie, Minnesota kicker Blair Walsh, was chosen. Walsh has nine field goals of at least 50 yards, an NFL mark.

The AFC kicker is at the other end of the spectrum: Cleveland's Phil Dawson earned his first selection in his 14th NFL season.

"I deliberately tried not to know," Dawson said. "We wanted to watch the show with my kids. I had a really good idea what was going on, but it was a pretty priceless moment when we saw the name flash up on the screen. My kids went nuts `cause my wife went nuts. That makes these 15 years of waiting worth it."

Another record setter will be heading to Honolulu: Detroit WR Calvin Johnson.

Johnson broke Jerry Rice's single-season yards receiving record and has 1,892 yards with a game left.

Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez set the record for Pro Bowls at his position by being chosen for the 13th time.

The league's top two sackmasters, DEs Aldon Smith of San Francisco and J.J. Watt of Houston, were first-time selections. Watt has 20 1-2 sacks, one ahead of Smith; the NFL record is 22 1-2.

Other newcomers, along with Griffin, Walsh and Dawson, were AFC players tackle Duane Brown and guard Wade Smith of Houston; safety LaRon Landry of the Jets; kick returner Jacoby Jones of Baltimore; and punter Dustin Colquitt of Kansas City.

For the NFC, first-timers were Giants WR Victor Cruz; Atlanta WR Julio Jones; Seattle tackle Russell Okung and center Max Unger; San Francisco guard Mike Iupati, linebacker NaVorro Bowman and safety Donte Whitner; Chicago cornerback Tim Jennings and defensive tackle Henry Melton; Washington tackle Trent Williams and special teamer Lorenzo Alexander; Minnesota fullback Jerome Felton; Tampa Bay DT Gerald McCoy; and New Orleans punter Thomas Morstead.

Eight teams had no Pro Bowl players: Carolina, Philadelphia and St. Louis in the NFC, Tennessee, Buffalo, Jacksonville, San Diego and Oakland in the AFC.

Chiefs, Jaguars left in race for No. 1 draft pick

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —The joke running through Jacksonville these days carries the same punch line as the one in Kansas City:

"Our team is so bad it can't even stink in the right year."

The Chiefs and Jaguars will vie for the top pick in the NFL draft in separate games Sunday. But the value of "winning" the race to the NFL's worst record is debatable in a year without a clear, franchise-changing prospect.

There's no Andrew Luck in this unlucky draft.

No Robert Griffin III, either.

Just a collection of talented young players who could fill holes at left tackle or linebacker or defensive end, but hardly push the needle for teams in desperate need of massive overhauls.

The Chiefs and Jaguars are both 2-13, but the Chiefs hold the tiebreaker for the No. 1 spot because of their weakness of schedule. The only way Jacksonville can jump them is if they lose to the Tennessee Titans and Kansas City beats the Denver Broncos, who are playing for an opportunity to secure home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

That would give the Jaguars the worst overall record by themselves.

"You don't want to be in this position," Jaguars coach Mike Mularkey said. "Just like we didn't want to be in that position in Atlanta when we drafted Matt Ryan (in 2008). But if you pick up the right guy, it can make a huge difference for you and get you out of that position."

The Jaguars have never drafted first overall. They had the second choice in their expansion year of 1995 and again the following season. But they're also the only team in the NFL to pick in the top 10 each of the last six seasons, counting the upcoming draft.

That's a big reason why general manager Gene Smith, the architect of their past four drafts, might not be around to make their choice, regardless of whether it's No. 1.

Kansas City is in similar shape.

The Chiefs have never had the No. 1 pick as members of the NFL—they chose Hall of Fame defensive tackle Buck Buchanan first overall in 1963, when they were still a part of the AFL. The closest they've come since the merger is second overall in 1978, `79 and again in 1988.

That's a big reason why GM Scott Pioli could be on the way out, too: Pioli's Chiefs could be historically bad.

Brewer helps Nuggets snap Lakers streak

DENVER (AP)—Corey Brewer matched his career high with 27 points and the Denver Nuggets overcame a 40-point effort by Kobe Bryant to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 126-114 on Wednesday night for their seventh straight win at home.

Brewer hit four of his six 3-pointers in the final 12-plus minutes, helping the Nuggets hold off the Lakers, whose five-game winning streak was snapped.

Bryant, who hit 40 points for the 116th time in his career, has scored 30 or more points in 10 straight games.

Kenneth Faried had 21 points and 15 rebounds, and Danilo Gallinari added 19 points for Denver. Ty Lawson had 17 points to go with 14 assists, and Andre Iguodala also scored 17 points.

The Lakers lost Dwight Howard to an ejection with 5:02 left in the third quarter. He was called for a flagrant foul 2 when he jammed his hand in Faried's face as the Nuggets forward drove the lane. Faried tumbled to the floor, but shook off the fall to stay in the game.

Pau Gasol added 19 points for the Lakers and Steve Nash had 15 points in his third game back from a leg injury that sidelined him for 24 games.

Leading by three points at the half, the Nuggets went on a 10-0 run capped by a 3-pointer by Gallinari for a 73-60 lead midway through the third quarter.

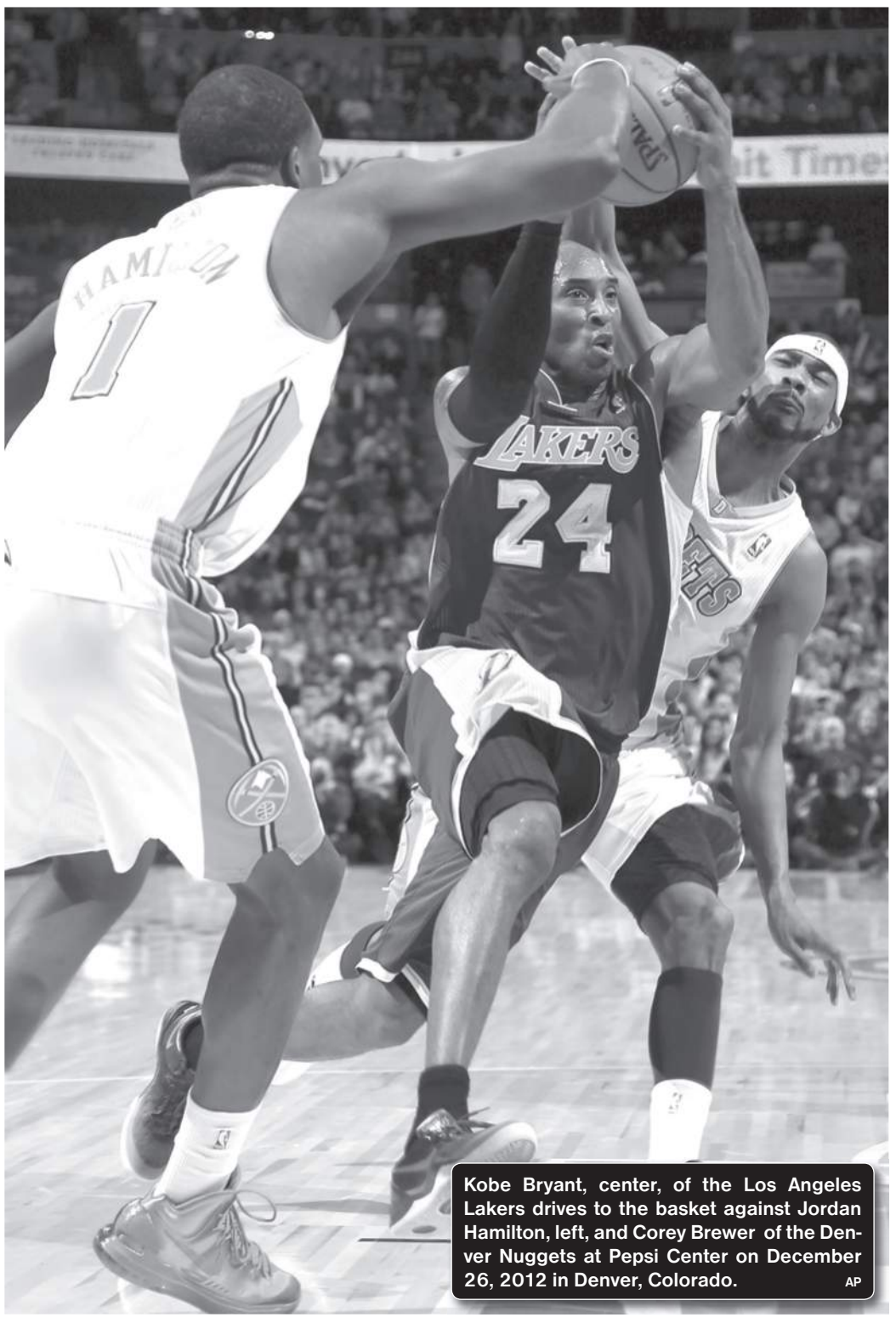
The Nuggets scored five consecutive points after Howard's ejection, including one of two free throws by Faried for an 84-72 advantage. But the Lakers fought back, pulling within 91-87 with a 9-3 burst near the end of the third quarter that Bryant started with a 3-pointer.

Taking advantage of a Lakers turnover, the Nuggets stunned the Lakers with five points in the final 12.7 seconds of the third, with Brewer hitting a running 3-pointer at the buzzer from 26 feet away to allow Denver to take a 96-87 lead into the fourth quarter.

Brewer and Iguodala each hit 3-pointers in the opening minutes of the final period as Denver gained a 15-point advantage.

The Lakers cut it to 113-106 on layup by Jodie Meeks with 4:34 remaining, but Gallinari answered with his third 3-pointer of the night and Faried followed with a driving layup to rebuild Denver's lead to 118-106. Brewer hit two more 3-pointer in the final 1:19 to ice the victory.

Faried, who had 13 points in the first half, helped the Nuggets take a 57-54 lead at the break. The Nuggets led by as many as eight points in the second quarter, going in front 40-32 on a breakaway dunk by Brewer but a couple of 3-pointers by Gasol along with a pair of long jumpers by Bryant over the final five minutes of the quarter got the Lakers close again.



Kobe Bryant, center, of the Los Angeles Lakers drives to the basket against Jordan Hamilton, left, and Corey Brewer of the Denver Nuggets at Pepsi Center on December 26, 2012 in Denver, Colorado. AP

Heat 105, Bobcats 92

In Charlotte, LeBron James had 27 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, and the Miami Heat handed the Charlotte Bobcats their 16th straight loss, 105-92 on Wednesday night.

Dwyane Wade scored 29 points and had nine rebounds as Miami extended its winning streak to six.

Charlotte cut the Miami lead to 84-82 when Gerald Henderson completed a three-point play with 7:16 left. But James knocked down a 3-pointer, Wade hit a pair of jumpers, and Shane Battier added a 3-pointer from the right corner to complete an 11-3 run that pushed the lead to 10.

Kemba Walker had 27 points, and Ramon Sessions added 19 points for the Bobcats (7-21), who haven't won since Nov. 24.

Hornets 97, Magic 94

In Orlando, Robin Lopez had a season-high 29 points, and Greivis Vasquez scored a season-best 27 as New Orleans snapped an 11-game losing streak with a victory over Orlando.

Orlando had a chance to tie the game in the closing seconds, but came up empty on a 3-point attempt by Nikola Vucevic.

It was the Hornets' first win since Dec. 3 and their fourth straight regular-season victory over the Magic.

Jameer Nelson had 28 points and 10 rebounds for Orlando, and Vucevic added 19 points. The Magic dropped their third consecutive game, all since starting forward Glen Davis injured his shoulder.

Cavaliers 87, Wizards 84

In Washington, Tristan Thompson's three-point play with 24.4 seconds remaining gave Cleveland a victory over Washington and its first two-game winning streak of the season.

Kyrie Irving, who had 26 points to lead Cleveland, made one of two free throws with 9.5 seconds left after Jordan Crawford and Garrett Temple missed jumpers for the Wizards. Crawford made two free throws with 8.5 seconds left to cut the lead to 86-84. Irving hit one of two, and Crawford missed a 3-pointer as time ran out.

Irving had 20 of his 26 points in the first half for the Cavaliers, who improved to 7-23. Two of their wins are against Washington, losers of eight straight.

Thompson had a season-high 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Crawford and Emeka Okafor led the Wizards with 17 points. Nene had 16.

Hawks 126, Pistons 119, 2OT

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 31 points, Al Horford added 22, and Atlanta beat Detroit in double overtime.

The Hawks blew a 22-point, fourth-quarter lead as Detroit reserves Will Bynum and Charlie Villanueva scored a combined 26 points in the final period of regulation.

Atlanta has won two straight and eight of 12. Detroit has lost seven of nine.

Bynum finished with 31 points, one less than his career high, and assisted on the last two baskets of regulation, when Andre Drummond's dunk cut the lead to two and Austin Daye's 3-pointer gave the Pistons a 101-100 lead with 4 seconds remaining.

Rockets 87, Timberwolves 84

In Minneapolis, James Harden scored 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, and Houston rallied to win its fifth straight, topping Minnesota.

Harden's drive to the basket gave Houston (16-12) an 85-84 lead with 39 seconds left. He drove again to make it a three-point lead with 11.7 seconds to go and scored 15 of the Rockets' final 17 points.

Omer Asik added nine points and 17 rebounds for the Rockets, who edged the Wolves after beating their previous three opponents by at least 22 points.

J.J. Barea scored 18 for Minnesota (13-13), and Shved added 16. Kevin Love had 12 rebounds, but scored just seven points on 3 of 14 shooting. He missed all seven of his 3-point attempts.

It was Rockets coach Kevin McHale's first game back in his home state since his 23-year-old daughter, Sasha, died on Nov. 24 of complications from lupus.

76ers 99, Grizzlies 89

In Memphis, Dorell Wright scored 28 points, and Spencer Hawes had 20, season-highs for both, and Philadelphia snapped a six-game road losing streak with a victory over Memphis.

Wright was inserted into the lineup for Jason Richardson, who sat out with a low back strain. Wright was 8 of 11 from the field, part of the Sixers shooting 52 percent, including 9 of 16 outside the arc.

Thaddeus Young and Jrue Holiday had 13 points each for Philadelphia, Holiday adding nine assists. Nick Young finished with 12 points. Hawes had five of Philadelphia's season-high 12 blocked shots.

Zach Randolph led the Grizzlies with 23 points and nine rebounds, and Marc Gasol had 18 points and eight rebounds. Memphis, which lost its second straight, played without leading scorer Rudy Gay, who was out because of "personal reasons."

Bucks 108, Nets 93

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 25 points, Monta Ellis added 20 points and a season-high six steals, and Milwaukee beat short-handed Brooklyn for the 13th straight time.

Brook Lopez had 21 points and 10 rebounds as the Nets missed a chance to get to .500 on the road (6-7) and lost their third straight.

The Nets were without starting guard Deron Williams, who used his wrist to brace himself as he fell to the court Tuesday in a home loss to Boston. C.J. Watson made his first start of the season and 60th of his career.

Trailing 78-67 after three, the Nets made it a close game in the fourth quarter, getting to 84-80, but Milwaukee answered with 3-pointers from Ersan Ilyasova, Ellis, and Mike Dunleavy to push the lead to 11.

The Nets fell to 3-10 in December.

Ellis and Jennings outscored Joe Johnson and Watson 45-21.

Spurs 100, Raptors 80

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 15 points, and San Antonio rolled to a victory over Toronto that snapped the Raptors' five-game winning streak.

Manu Ginobili added 14 points, Tony Parker 13, and Tiago Splitter and Stephen Jackson each had 10 for San Antonio (22-8), which has won three straight. Kawhi Leonard had nine points and 10 rebounds.

Alan Anderson and Amir Johnson both had 12 points for Toronto (9-20).

Duncan had six rebounds and was 6 for 11 from the field in only 20 minutes as the Spurs' balanced attack wore down the Raptors. None of Toronto's starters scored in double figures as San Antonio's starters outscored its counterparts 54-25.

Suns 99, Knicks 97

In Phoenix, J.R. Smith sank a baseline 21-footer at the buzzer after a Phoenix turnover with a second to play, giving the depleted New York Knicks a 99-97 victory over the Suns on Wednesday night.

Smith's tough jumper from 15 feet had tied it at 97 with 10.6 seconds left. Then, after the turnover, Jason Kidd inbounded to Smith, who got the shot off as he sailed toward the out of bounds line. Smith scored 27 and Kidd 23.

Jared Dudley had a career-high 36 for Phoenix, including two free throws that put the Suns ahead 97-95 with 34.5 seconds to go.

New York was without the NBA's No. 2 scorer Carmelo Anthony (hyperextended knee) and Raymond Felton (sprained finger), both hurt in the Christmas day loss to the Lakers in Los Angeles.

The Knicks said X-rays on Felton's right fifth finger revealed a fracture and the next course of action will be determined after his return to New York.

Warriors 94, Jazz 83

In Salt Lake City, Stephen Curry scored 23 points, David Lee added 18 and the Golden State Warriors beat the Utah Jazz 94-83 on Wednesday night.

Curry set the tone by scoring the Warriors' first 11 points. He hit two 3-pointers and made three free throws after being fouled on another shot beyond the arc—all in less than a minute.

Jarrett Jack and Klay Thompson had 15 points each for the Warriors, who dominated on the fast break and hit 9 of 18 3-point attempts.

Al Jefferson led Utah with 18 points and 10 rebounds while Paul Millsap added 14 points.

The Warriors led by as many as 15 points in the first half, and took a 75-58 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Warriors let a 14-point, fourth-quarter lead slip away Saturday in a 118-115 overtime loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Red Sox get All-Star closer Hanrahan from Pirates



AP

Joel Hanrahan is headed to Boston after the Red Sox acquired the closer from the Pittsburgh Pirates in a six-player trade.

BOSTON (AP)—If Joel Hanrahan can do for the Boston Red Sox what he did against them, they should be very happy with their new closer.

In the first of his two All-Star seasons, the right-hander posted back-to-back saves for the Pittsburgh Pirates with perfect ninth innings against the Red Sox in June 2011. He struck out Adrian Gonzalez, who entered the series batting .359, to end the second game.

"When people look back on me as a Pirate, that's the one that stands out the most to them," Hanrahan said Wednesday after being obtained in a six-player trade.

People such as Red Sox assistant general manager Brian O'Halloran.

"It definitely made an impression on me," he said. "It was not fun to be in the batter's box against Joel Hanrahan."

Now American League hitters will see what it's like.

Boston completed the deal Wednesday, also receiving infielder Brock Holt. The Red Sox gave up right-handers Mark Melancon and Stolmy Pimentel, infielder Ivan DeJesus Jr. and first baseman-outfielder Jerry Sands.

The Red Sox also announced the signing of free agent shortstop Stephen Drew, who agreed to a one-year contract early last week. That reported $9.5 million deal was contingent on the former Oakland Athletic and Arizona Diamondback, who broke his ankle in 2011, passing a physical.

"We feel that he's going to be fully healthy for us," O'Halloran said.

The acquisition of Drew and Hanrahan are the latest in a series of moves designed to improve on a 69-93 record and a last-place finish in the AL East. The Red Sox already have obtained right-handers Ryan Dempster and Koji Uehara, outfielders Shane Victorino and Johnny Gomes and catcher David Ross.

Over the past two seasons, Hanrahan had 76 saves, fourth most in the National League, and a 2.24 ERA. Last season, he was 5-2 with a 2.72 ERA and 36 saves.

The six-year veteran will take over the closer's role that Alfredo Aceves struggled in most of last season before giving way to Andrew Bailey, who had missed most of the season with a right thumb injury.

In his first season with Boston, Bailey was 1-1 with a 7.04 ERA and six saves in nine opportunities over 19 games.

Manager John Farrell has talked with Hanrahan and Bailey and told them that Hanrahan will be the closer, although "we see Andrew as playing a very important role," O'Halloran said.

The Red Sox's search for a closer began when Jonathan Papelbon signed as a free agent with the Philadelphia Phillies after the 2011 season.

Hanrahan figured he was part of that quest when he heard his name in trade rumors involving the Red Sox, Detroit Tigers and Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I got excited" when he learned of the trade, Hanrahan said. "Obviously, the Red Sox have a great history and tradition and it's a huge sports city."

In six seasons, 2 1/2 with the Washington Nationals and 3 1/2 with the Pirates, he's 22-17 with a 3.74 ERA and 96 saves in 117 chances. His best season was 2011 when he went 1-4 with a 1.83 ERA, 40 saves in 44 opportunities and just 16 walks in 68 2-3 innings. His control slipped last season when he walked 36 in 59 2-3 innings.

Hanrahan said hamstring and ankle problems affected his pitching mechanics.

"I don't think the walks are going to be a concern," he said. "I feel good going to spring training."

Hanrahan said he's never been to Fenway Park, but O'Halloran doesn't think he'll have trouble adjusting to the American League.

"Joel Hanrahan has the stuff to pitch anywhere," he said.

Holt spent most of last season at Double-A Altoona, then hit .292 in 24 games with the Pirates, all in September.

Melancon was 0-2 with a 6.20 ERA in 41 relief appearances in his only season with Boston. Pimentel spent the season at Double-A Portland. Sands and DeJesus were obtained in a trade that sent Gonzalez, Josh Beckett and Carl Crawford to the Dodgers on Aug. 25.

SMU good fit for Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown

DALLAS (AP)—Larry Brown was a young assistant on coach Dean Smith's staff at North Carolina in the mid-1960s when he turned down his first head coaching offer.

At the time, Brown didn't think he was ready. But Smith asked him where he'd like to coach one day.

"I said, of course North Carolina, but I didn't ever want to see him step down," Brown recalled. "So I said Stanford, Northwestern, Princeton and Vanderbilt. ... Great academically and great conferences and great areas to live."

A record nine NBA jobs later, and a quarter century after leading Kansas to an NCAA title, the 72-year-old Brown found that kind of fit in his return to coaching this season at SMU.

"We don't have the tradition of Carolina, Duke, Kentucky, UCLA," said Brown, whose Mustangs are off to a 9-4 start. "But I don't think we'll shortchange a kid in terms of getting an education and coaching them up and giving them a chance to be successful."

For anyone who thought the Hall of Fame coach went to SMU as a figurehead for a struggling program with a pending move to the ever-changing Big East Conference, it quickly becomes clear why he's back in the game.

"The only reason I took a job is because I love to coach and teach, and this school afforded me this opportunity," he said.

Brown had to be told during early games to stay in the coaching box. He holds out his hands questioning a non-call by a referee, tries to prompt his team to run its play at the right pace and chides a player for hanging on the rim after a dunk.

During practice, Brown gets right in the middle of his post players to demonstrate what he wants them to do. He swishes a shot to start a drill, then moves up and down the court, waving his hands to direct the action.

"We all thought that he may come in, be like the GM figure. ... That's so wrong," SMU junior guard Nick Russell said. "He's in practice, and he's screaming, and he's running and he's dribbling and shooting hook shots. He's doing it all. He's involved and his presence is felt day in and day out."

Brown was hired in April to replace the fired Matt Doherty, who went 80-109 in six seasons. Brown left the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats in December 2010.

While home in the Philadelphia area with his wife and two high school-age kids, Brown spent many days at Villanova games and practices with coach Jay Wright. Brown also visited friends like Kansas coach Bill Self, Kentucky's John Calipari and Maryland's Mark Turgeon, but stayed away from NBA arenas.

"He's a piece of work," Wright said. "I do miss him, but I know how happy he is down there."

Tim Jankovich was Illinois State's head coach the past five seasons after working on Self's staff. He had one of his best Redbirds teams coming back this season, but couldn't pass up the opportunity to work with Brown, a coach he has always followed and studied.

"What's struck me is the amount of energy that he has," said Jankovich, SMU's associate head coach and Brown's expected successor. "His energy is that of someone 20 years younger. ... He's still passionate about the game."

The Mustangs' last NCAA tournament was in 1993. Their last NCAA victory was 1988, the same season Brown won the title at Kansas.

Rangers add Pierzynski, say he will be starter

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—A.J. Pierzynski can joke with Texas manager Ron Washington about last season's All-Star snub now that he's the starting catcher for the Rangers.

They shared a laugh over lunch a few days before Wednesday's announcement that Pierzynski's one-year free agent contract with Texas was complete. Both considered the All-Star issue dead after it happened in July, even though Pierzynski had a cryptic retort when Washington explained the difficulty of the decision.

''Everybody keeps trying to make a big deal out of it, but I've known Wash for a really long time," Pierzynski said. ''It's not going to change the way I feel about Ron Washington because I know what he's done in this game and I know where he stands and what he's all about. It's over and done with for me."

Washington said Pierzynski will be the primary catcher, pushing Geovany Soto to the backup role after he re-signed as a free agent. Pierzynski hit .278 with a career-high 27 home runs in 135 games for the Chicago White Sox, while Soto took a pay cut after hitting .196 in 47 games following a trade with the Chicago Cubs.

Pierzynski, a two-time All-Star who has been to the playoffs four times and won the 2005 World Series with the White Sox, has long been known as an irritant to opposing players and even someone who didn't always please his teammates either. Washington says he always felt otherwise.

''I always loved him; I never hated him," Washington said. ''I always loved him because he always believed he did anything and everything he had to do to try to beat you. I admired that."

The Rangers needed a left-handed power hitter after losing All-Star slugger Josh Hamilton in free agency to the Los Angeles. They also had a void at catcher because Mike Napoli, a key to Texas reaching a second straight World Series in 2011, bolted for Boston.

Soto became a free agent when the Rangers didn't agree to a contract before a deadline earlier this month. But he eventually agreed to a $2.75 million, one-year contract, a more than 20 percent decrease from his $4.3 million payroll last season. Terms of Pierzynski's deal weren't disclosed.

Pierzynski is a .284 career hitter in 1,629 games with the White Sox (2005-12), San Francisco (2004) and Minnesota (1998-2003). He could also play some designated hitter. He caught 121 games last year, leads and all active players with 1,559 games as a catcher and doesn't see a need to slow down even though he turns 36 on Sunday.

''Physically, I feel awesome," said Pierzynski, who matched his career high with 77 RBIs last season. ''Mentally, I'm as good as I've ever been. I always joke that I have to thank my mom and dad because they gave me good genes as far as health goes."

To make room for Pierzynski on the 40-man roster, the Rangers designated catcher Luis Martinez for assignment.

Donaire named ESPN's Fighter of the Year



For impressively ruling the super bantamweight division, Nonito Donaire Jr. was recently named ESPN's Fighter of the Year.

The popular sports network honored the 30-year-old Donaire, known as the Filipino Flash, for winning all his four title bouts this year while submitting himself to voluntary anti-doping tests 24-7, 365 days a year.

According to writer Dan Rafael, Donaire was an "easy pick as ESPN.com Boxer of the Year" for dominating the 122-pound division with his usual flair. He capped his explosive performance with knockout wins over former champs Toshiaki Nishioka of Japan and Jorge Arce of Mexico.

Donaire started the year with a classy decision win over former champion Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. of Puerto Rico for the vacant WBO junior bantamweight crown in February.

In July, he also annexed the IBF version of the belt by outclassing lanky six-foot champion Jeffrey Mathebula of South Africa who managed to escape getting KOed but not before suffering a broken jaw that would later on require surgery.

He returned in October to force Nishioka into retirement after the bout was stopped in the ninth round then needed just three rounds in the second week of December to put away Arce.

NZ

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ments. I am sure Carol had the same story. They got to experience playing so many games in one day and challenging different kinds of players and these motivate them to work harder on their game next year so they could return to New Zealand and play there again," Race said in a brief telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"I think after playing in New Zealand, their confidence moved up to a higher level. They got ideas on how to improve their game after competing against New Zealand players and others from the Pacific Oceania region," Race added.

The three CNMI bets joined the tournament in Waikato from Dec. 7 to 12 with Lee making it to the finals of the girls U12 singles, Heras advancing to the semis, and Lizama also entering the Final Four of the boys U12 doubles. Lee and Heras played in the doubles event of the Waikato competition, too, and marched into the finals.

With her finals stints in both the singles and doubles events in Waikato, Lee posted impressive statistics in her first tournament in New Zealand. The 11-year-old player joined 13 singles matches and had a 10-3 record for a 76.9 winning percentage. She won 17 sets and dropped only 5 (77.3%) and had a 120-53 games won/loss record (69.4%).

In doubles, Lee had a 6-2 record (66.7%), 8-3 sets won/loss mark (72.7%), and 55-41 games won/loss slate (57.3%). Overall, Lee had a 73.7 winning percentage in Waikato (14-5 match won/loss mark).

Heras earned a 10-5 record in Waikato, tallying 6-3 (66.7%) and 4-2 (66.7%) marks in singles and doubles, respectively, for a winning percentage of 66.7. Lizama went 10-8 in his first tournament in New Zealand, logging a 6-3 slate in doubles and 4-5 in singles for his 55.6 winning percentage.

After missing a finals stint in Waikato, Lizama barged into the doubles title game in Auckland with teammate Reynald Taaroa of Tahiti and made it to the quarterfinals of the U12 singles. The lone CNMI male entry to the New Zealand tournament collected an 8-3 mark (3-2 in singles and 5-1 in doubles) for a 72.7 winning percentage.

Lee gained a semis seat in the same tournament in Auckland and had an impressive 7-1 record in the girls U12 singles event. She swept her first five games before bowing to the top seed Paige Dargie Alter in the Final Four for a remarkable 87.5 winning percentage. In doubles, Lee teamed up with Fiji's Ruby Coffin and they were undefeated in six games, but the competition was not completed due to time constraints. Lee went on to cap her New Zealand trip with a 91.9 winning percentage in Auckland.

Heras missed the Final Four in the U12 singles event in Auckland, but ruled the consolation draw. She posted a 6-2 mark in singles and 4-2 in doubles (with Vanuatu's Emma Maucotel) for a 71.4 winning percentage. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TEBOW

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son—the bench.

Tebow's career with the Jets will surely go down as a one-and-done flop. At this point, it would be easier to find Waldo on the depth chart than Tebow.

Shortly after this mess of a year comes to its merciful end, he will surely ask for a trade (politely, of course) or simply be released.

"I think it's where we are right now and I just think it's best for our team and for this game," Ryan said on a conference call Tuesday, explaining his decision to start McElroy instead of Tebow less than 24 hours after a hideous loss to Tennessee officially eliminated the Jets from playoff contention.

"That's how I feel."

He wouldn't get any more specific than that, repeatedly referring to it being a "gut" decision—nothing more, nothing less.

Not that there was much Ryan could say. The Jets backed themselves into a corner way back in March when they acquired Tebow from the Denver Broncos, and they never came up with a way out.

Supposedly, the plan was to let Sanchez remain the starter, with Tebow working two or three series a game as a change-of-pace option, running out the Wildcat or spread to give defenses another look. But there were a couple of big problems with that scenario.

For one, the Jets really didn't have the personnel on offense to change things up that drastically, even for just a few plays a game. Heck, as it turned out, they really didn't have enough talent around Sanchez to run a conventional offense, and they never thought for a moment that Tebow had the skill set to oversee anything resembling the norm.

Then, there's the dilemma that everyone could see coming before Tebow's jet even landed in New York. Everyone except the Jets, that is. If the team played a second quarterback, even while insisting he was just the backup, Sanchez's standing would've been undermined beyond repair (which might have been the case regardless, as it turns out).

It's called a quarterback controversy. If Tebow had been given the chance to do something—anything—all the fans and pundits and talking heads would have been screaming for a change at the slightest hint of success.

So, while Tebow raised a ruckus merely by stripping off his shirt to jog off the field on a rainy day at training camp, Sanchez remained the undisputed starter. He held on as captain of the Titanic right to the bitter end, the Jets resisting any urge to save themselves by jumping in a lifeboat piloted by Tebow.

"I know Tim is a tremendous competitor, and I don't doubt that at all," Ryan said, again explaining in the vaguest possible terms why it will never be Tebow Time on his team. "For right now, I think this move, it's a move that I made, is best for our team in this game. I believe that and that's why I'm making the move that I'm making."

Tebow has played in 11 games for the Jets, but if you blinked, you missed him. Outside of a 23-yard completion against Indianapolis back in mid-October, he's passed for a grand total of 16 yards. He's had just three runs longer than 10 yards. He's yet to reach the end zone with either his legs or his left arm.

Now, the Jets can't afford for him to play well—not even in their final two meaningless games.

As with all sinking ships, everyone is now trying to figure out a way to save himself. Ryan is hanging on by a thread. So is Tony Sparano, the offensive coordinator who was supposed to make this experiment work. Not to mention general manager Mike Tannenbaum, who has overseen the gutting of a franchise that seemed on the rise not so long ago.

If Tebow plays now—and plays well—those Jets fans still paying attention would undoubtedly wonder, "Hey, why haven't they been playing him all along?" Which would lead to all the above-mentioned figures finding themselves looking for work next season. They may be anyway, but they no longer have any chance of surviving on Tebow's back.

In hindsight, Tebow and the Jets were like love-struck teenagers back in March, all giddy over each other and not paying a lick of attention to what really mattered.

For Tebow it was a chance to spread his clean-cut, deeply religious brand in the greatest media market of them all. For the Jets, it was a chance to steal away some of the thunder from the team they share a city and a stadium with, the Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

In the end, the only winner was the Broncos, playing the role of the all-knowing parent. Even after Tebow guided the team to the playoffs in 2011 and a stirring overtime win against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first round, GM John Elway knew he needed more skill at the most important position on the field. He jumped at the chance to land one of the best ever, Peyton Manning, and quickly dumped Tebow on the Jets, even picking up a couple of draft picks in the deal.

And look where they teams are now: Denver, the AFC West champion and headed to the playoffs with an 11-3 record; the Jets, already looking ahead to the offseason at 6-8.

So, it's time for Tebow to put the shirt back on and find another team. Maybe he'll wind up close to home with the Jacksonville Jaguars. Or maybe another team in desperate QB straits, such as the Arizona Cardinals. If those options don't pan out, he could even give the Canadian Football League a try. The game north of the border might be better suited to his unorthodox style.

No matter what, the clock has run out on Tebow Time in New York.

We all saw the end coming, what surprised us was the Jets didn't wind the darn thing up.

AIR

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Go So Hard's offense also slowed down in the second and third, allowing Air Apparent to seize the lead.

After falling behind in the first canto, 10-15, Air Apparent knocked down 18 points against the 11 of Team Go So Hard for the former's 28-26 cushion at the break. Pagarao also led Air Apparent's second-quarter recovery, as she scored the team's first 7 markers and had 9 in that period.

Pagarao added 4 more in the third and got some help from Kyla Ito and Marie Javier, while only Palero scored for Team Go So Hard in the penultimate quarter, as Air Apparent preserved the shaky two-point lead.

Then in the fourth canto, Pagarao gave Air Apparent some stability, as she made her shots in streaks and her three other teammates also provided help.

Swerve 73, Team Four 45

In the second game, Swerve kept its undefeated record (3-0) after trouncing Team Four.

Swerve capitalized on the absence of Rachel Abrams to rout Team Four, which absorbed its second straight loss after winning over Air Apparent in the league opener last Saturday.

With Abrams missing in action, Swerve took control of the match right in the first quarter, leading at 23-13. Kaylani Lebria anchored Swerve's offense in the opening period, as she connected on three triples and scored 11 points, while the lanky Madeleine Alegre cherry picked at the paint and added 6 points.

Swerve's lead increased to a dozen at the break and Team Four clearly needed Abrams' scoring, as only Jeralyn Castillo tried, but failed to keep the squad afloat. Castillo's one-man show was obviously no match to the collective effort of Lebria, Alegre, and Lily Williams, who all finished in twin digits and helped Swerve pull away in the second half.

Lebria top-scored for Swerve with her 23 points, Alegre chipped in 14, and Williams contributed 10. Nicole Lebria and Joy Pena added 6 apiece. Castillo had a game-high 34 markers for Team Four, which got only 7 points from Kimmy Ocampo and two each from Erream Badilles and Diane Pablo.

First Game

Swerve 73 – K. Lebria 23, Alegre 14, Williams 10, N. Lebria 6, Pena 6, Reyes 3, Che 2.

Team Four 45 – Castillo 34, Ocampo 7, Badilles 2, Pablo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-13, 34-22, 52-31, 73-45.

Second Game

Air Apparent 51 – Pagarao 27, Ito 8, Padilla 4, Javier 4, Aguon 3, Gueverra 2.

Team Go So Hard 41 – I. Palero 19, Travilla 11, Lizardo 6, Diaz 4, Cristobal 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-15, 28-26, 36-35, 51-41. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	21	8	.724	–
Boston	14	13	.519	6
Brooklyn	14	14	.500	6_
Philadelphia	14	15	.483	7
Toronto	9	20	.310	12

Southeast Division

Miami	20	6	.769	–
Atlanta	17	9	.654	3
Orlando	12	16	.429	9
Charlotte	7	21	.250	14
Washington	3	23	.115	17

Central Division

Indiana	16	12	.571	–
Milwaukee	15	12	.556	_
Chicago	15	12	.556	_
Detroit	9	22	.290	8_
Cleveland	7	23	.233	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	22	8	.733	–
Memphis	18	8	.692	2
Houston	16	12	.571	5
Dallas	12	16	.429	9
New Orleans	6	22	.214	15

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	21	6	.778	–
Denver	16	14	.533	6_
Portland	14	13	.519	7
Minnesota	13	13	.500	7_
Utah	15	15	.500	7_

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	22	6	.786	–
Golden State	19	10	.655	3_
L.A. Lakers	14	15	.483	8_
Phoenix	11	18	.379	11_
Sacramento	9	19	.321	13

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	29	300	212	876	30.2
Anthony, NYK	24	235	152	684	28.5
Durant, OKC	27	245	225	758	28.1
Harden, HOU	27	206	233	697	25.8
James, MIA	26	259	111	665	25.6
Westbrook, OKC	27	199	141	578	21.4
Aldridge, POR	25	210	108	528	21.1
Pierce, BOS	27	180	143	553	20.5
Curry, GOL	29	202	97	588	20.3
Wade, MIA	23	175	107	464	20.2
Lee, GOL	29	241	95	577	19.9
Ellis, MIL	27	193	119	526	19.5
Mayo, DAL	28	189	94	541	19.3
Parker, SAN	28	204	103	525	18.8
Walker, CHA	28	191	104	522	18.6
Lillard, POR	27	172	95	501	18.6
Gay, MEM	25	174	80	455	18.2
Griffin, LAC	28	209	88	508	18.1
Holiday, PHL	25	181	63	452	18.1
DeRozan, TOR	29	194	111	514	17.7

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Chandler, NYK	135	196	.689
McGee, DEN	138	231	.597
Jordan, LAC	111	191	.581
Howard, LAL	179	312	.574
Hickson, POR	139	244	.570
Ibaka, OKC	164	289	.567
Lopez, NOR	142	251	.566
Bosh, MIA	165	302	.546
James, MIA	259	478	.542
Landry, GOL	131	243	.539

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Varejao, CLE	25	138	223	361	14.4
Randolph, MEM	26	124	204	328	12.6
Asik, HOU	28	93	238	331	11.8
Howard, LAL	29	105	236	341	11.8
Lee, GOL	29	93	231	324	11.2
Hickson, POR	26	108	180	288	11.1
Noah, CHI	27	98	187	285	10.6
Jefferson, UTA	29	65	230	295	10.2
Duncan, SAN	29	51	240	291	10.0
Faried, DEN	30	121	180	301	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	24	286	11.9
Paul, LAC	28	266	9.5
Holiday, PHL	25	221	8.8
Vasquez, NOR	28	242	8.6
Westbrook, OKC	27	233	8.6
Williams, Bro	27	216	8.0
Calderon, TOR	29	220	7.6
Parker, SAN	28	201	7.2
Lawson, DEN	30	214	7.1
James, MIA	26	180	6.9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 NMIFA U15 and U18 Youth Fall League



Shirley's FC and Paire FC players chase the ball during their U15 game in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Fall League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



A Shirley's FC player, center, battles two MP United strikers for possession.


Matansa FC, left, and Tan Holdings FC players nudge each other as they fight for the leather.


The Shirley's FC goalie kicks the ball.


Paire FC's Colin Fruit goes for a kick against an MP United-2 player during their U18 game.


A Matansa FC player keeps the ball from going out of the sideline.


Tan Holdings' Tanapon Unsa, second left, and MP United's Enrico del Rosario in action during their U18 game.


Paire players line up on defense.


MP United FC's John Taisacan, right, wards off a Paire FC player as they battle for possession.


Matansa FC's Sean Perez, right, goes for a shot against a Paire FC defender.



Saipan Tribune
Sports



NZ debut big boost to CNMI jr. players


Lizama


Heras


Lee

CNMI junior players Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Luther Lizama are back on Saipan with renewed confidence after their notable debut in New Zealand.

The three Commonwealth bets returned to the island on Christmas Eve and according to CNMI coach Jeff Race, they are beaming with confidence after competing in the 2012 Waikato Christmas Junior Open in Hamilton and 2012 Tennis Auckland Xmas Junior Tournament in Auckland.

"I had a chat with Isabel and Luther and both had a great time in the New Zealand tourna-

See NZ on Page 34

Smack Dat, Veterans still clean

Only two teams remained undefeated after Round 6 of the 2012 Rocball Fall League.

Smack Dats and the Veterans hold similar 6-0 records to share the top spot in the league that took a break last week and will resume its games on Jan. 8 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Joining the co-leaders in the field are the Teachers and Jumpers, which are tied for second with identical 4-2 cards, Nets (3-3), Umi Zumi (2-4), Geeks (1-5), Orioles (1-5) and the winless Fat Boys (0-6). Three more rounds will be played in the regular season to determine the Top 4 finishers that will advance to the playoffs.

Smack Dats and Veterans kept their perfect records intact after downing separate foes in Round 6. Smack Dats trounced the Fat Boys, 54-47, while the Veterans surpassed the Jumpers, 51-34. Other Round 6 results saw Umi Zumi defeat the Geeks, 51-28, and the Nets down the Teachers, 49-21.

Umi Zumi's Gerberdo Kilelеman had the most outstanding performance in Round 6, as he scored 18 points to claim the "heavy hitter" title for the round. The Umi Zumi standout collected five aces, two xunks, and two kees.

Meanwhile, league organizer and Rocball creator James Feger said 30 games were completed at the break with the 10 teams combining for 270 aces, 193 kees, 51 xunks, 35 goals, and 3 jams.

Feger added that the Orioles and Geeks will resume action in the league on Jan. 8, while Fat Boys will take on the Veterans on Jan. 9. One more game will be played on Jan. 10 to complete Round 7 and the pairing will be announced later. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Air Apparent ends skid in holiday caging

Air Apparent broke into the win column in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball Tournament after outclassing Team Go So Hard, 51-41, last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Irish Pagarao led Air Apparent's first win in three games, as she sizzled for 27 points, including 11 in the pivotal fourth quarter.

Air Apparent was ahead by only a deuce after the third period, 37-35, when Pagarao took over the team's offense as usual and Team So Hard failed to answer back. Pagarao made two triples midway in the fourth and scored 10 of Air Apparent's last 12 points to outgun the entire Team Go So Hard crew.

Team Go So Hard nailed only 6 points off Jan Travilla's two field goals and one from Ira Palero in the fourth. Team

See AIR on Page 34


SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Air Apparent's Irish Pagarao, seen here clobbered by two Swerve defenders, scored 27 points in their skid-snapping win over Team Go So Hard in the Kanoa holiday caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Tebow Time clocks out in the Big Apple

In the end, the Tim Tebow era in New York will be remembered for his shirtless jog in the rain.

Really, that's about it.

He barely played at all for the Jets, who clearly didn't do any sort of clear-headed reasoning before they traded for Tebow, then quickly began asking themselves, "Uhh, what were we thinking?"

And now, with a hugely disappointing season all but done and Mark Sanchez finally banished to the bench, coach Rex Ryan officially signaled the end of Tebow Time in the Big Apple. He turned to Greg McElroy, a seventh-round pick in 2011, to start Sunday's now-meaningless game against San Diego.

No one thinks McElroy's the answer to what ails the Jets. But, apparently, he's more of an answer than Tebow, who will watch the game from the same spot he's spent nearly the entire sea-

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By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

